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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you agree that there is a present need to re-examine the political relationship between the Commonwealth and the United States?

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CUC Training

CUC linemen undergo a two-week certification training in Lower Base.

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2nd Anniversary

Triple J Super Fresh Market celebrates its second year anniversary.

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Most Beautiful

People magazine is naming Jenni Lopez the World's Most Beautiful Woman.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Southern High School senior Lydee Pangelinan, center, beams after being named the first place winner of this year's "Trash-In Fashion Show" on the grounds of the American Memorial Park in Garapan yesterday. Her gown is made from empty juice boxes. Flanking her are Marianas High School's Daniel Agulto, left, and Lester Lapuz, who won second and third place respectively.

Empty juice packs turned winning dress

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

A gown made from empty juice and milk packs was declared the best recycling creation during the Trash 'n Fashion show at the 2011 Environmental Expo held at the American Memorial Park grounds yesterday.

The gown, created by Saipan Southern High School senior Lydee Pangelinan, bested over 40 entries for the competi-

tion organized by the Division of Environmental Quality as part of the Environmental Awareness Month celebration.

Aside from empty juice and milk packs, Pangelinan's gown also featured empty dog food sacks as backing for the empty juice boxes. The gown was also accented with a flower made from Bounce softener.

Pangelinan's gown won her \$500 and two dinner tickets to Fiesta Resort & Spa.

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Paying through the nose for gas

» **Tinian, Rota gas prices higher than CNMI's minimum wage**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

If you think Saipan motorists are paying too much for gasoline, think about their counterparts on Tinian and Rota where a gallon of gasoline or diesel is much higher than the CNMI's current minimum wage of \$5.05 an hour.

Gas prices on Saipan are currently \$4.559 a gallon for regular unleaded, \$4.879 for premium or super unleaded, and \$4.879 a gallon for diesel.

But on Rota and Tinian, gas prices are

anywhere between \$5.50 and \$6.35 a gallon, especially after the latest round of price increases on April 8 and 12.

This means a minimum wage earner

See **GAS** on **Page 4**

Another suspect in alleged driver's license scam falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Custom Enforcement arrested Tuesday a man who allegedly obtained a CNMI driver's license through fraud.

Wei Lin, 28, was taken yesterday af-

ternoon to the U.S. District Court for the NMI for his initial court appearance.

The complaint charged Lin with two counts of knowingly possessing, obtaining, accepting, and receiving a CNMI driver's license obtained through fraud.

In his affidavit supporting the com-

See **SUSPECT** on **Page 4**

\$80M needed to retire land claims

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands said yesterday it would need up to \$80 million to retire all land claims in the CNMI, even as its revenues have declined because closed or struggling businesses have either canceled their land leases or yet to pay their obligations.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said these estimated \$80 million in land claims include those for right-of-way acquisition and claims made for wetlands and ponding basins.

Babauta said the department has not paid any pending land claims since his appointment as DPL secretary in early 2010.

See **\$80M** on **Page 4**

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Local

Compromise accord eyes allocating \$50K a month to NMTI

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After almost two hours of lengthy discussion, a tentative compromise was reached yesterday to divert \$50,000 a month of the Saipan Higher Education

Financial Assistance's budget to the Northern Marianas Trade Institute next fiscal year.

This will give the trades institute a total of \$600,000 in fiscal year 2012, with the money coming from SHEFA's budget. Institute owner Tony Pellegrino

has initially asked for \$775,000, a quarter of SHEFA's \$3 million scholarship funds, to be used to sustain the institute's immediate needs.

The emergency meeting, held yesterday at the institute's campus in Lower Base, was attend-

ed by Pellegrino, Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation chair Rep. Ramon Tebuteb, the bill's author Rep. Ray Palacios, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores, SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider, mayor's representative Ray Lizama, institute officials, and members of the media.

Pellegrino, who opened the floor at the meeting, expressed frustration over what he claims was Flores' sudden change of heart on the issue of providing 25 percent of SHEFA funding to the institute.

Pellegrino disclosed that the idea of asking 25 percent from SHEFA budget was actually "promised, supported, and recommended" by the Saipan mayor during previous conversations.

Flores admitted to making the promise but defended his turnabout, citing the financial situation of the government.

"I almost jumped out of my chair when you even suggested why not make it 25 percent? But this morning, you came out

in the paper saying you strongly opposed the measure? So could you explain that to me, Mr. Mayor?" asked Pellegrino.

Flores said it was only after his conversation with the SHEFA board that he decided to change his mind and oppose the measure, realizing that this will adversely impact all current scholars benefiting from the programs. He acknowledged the institute's importance in developing a local workforce but cited SHEFA's existing obligation to students.

House Local Bill 17-39, which is still pending with the local delegation, faces strong opposition from both the mayor and the SHEFA board. On Tuesday, the mayor officially transmitted to the delegation his position on the issue.

The measure proposes to appropriate 25 percent—or \$775,000 yearly—of SHEFA's \$3 million budget to NMTI for three consecutive years, for a total of \$2.3 million.

The bill's author, Rep. Palacios, reiterated the importance of providing assistance to the institute in developing a work-

force that would replace nonresident workers who may exit the Commonwealth in 2014.

"That's the only main reason why I offered this measure." He, however, could not say yesterday if he's ready to amend his measure. "We need to come up with a final compromise agreement."

G GAP holds benefit show for relief effort

A popular country music group from Akasaka is now on island to do a benefit show to aid relief efforts for the victims of the devastating earthquake and tsunami that struck Japan on March 11.

G GAP will perform live at Country House Restaurant tonight on a Kick Off Night. Separate dinner and cocktail shows with raffle drawing will be held tomorrow night.

Entrance for Kick Off Night will be free of charge, with 50-percent discount on all drinks due to the usual 'Late Happy Hour.'

Dinner show is from 5:30pm to 8pm and costs \$55 per ticket. The cocktail show is from 9pm to 11pm for \$35 per ticket.

G GAP is composed of Ryuji Hirao, guitar and vocals; Naomi Amemiya, electronic guitar and vocals; Yuichiro Nagasaka, bass and vocals; Keigo Nakajima, drums & vocals; and Yasuharu Muranaka, pedal steel guitar.

G GAP, which first performed live for the 25th anniversary of Country House Restaurant in Tokyo, was formed in 2000 and also plays English '80s and '90s rock music.

Kay Irinaka, general administrator for Country House Restaurant on Saipan, said the two restaurants planned last summer to bring the band for a live performance on island initially.

With the recent tragedy in Japan, Irinaka said G GAP decided to do the show as a fundraiser and charity event.

"All the proceeds from this event will go to the earthquake and tsunami relief efforts in Japan," Irinaka told *Saipan Tribune*.

Irinaka said Country House will endorse the proceeds to Chunichi newspaper, which has a branch in Sendai that has ongoing relief efforts.

For information, call Country House Restaurant at 233-1908. (Clarissa David)

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Saipan lawmakers wrestle over \$3M income from poker machines

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers wrestled over how to distribute \$3.335 million to \$3.474 million in estimated revenue from poker license fees yesterday. They ended up not acting on the appropriations bill that's been pending since June 2010 because of five floor amendments that mostly redistribute the available amount or add more items to be funded.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, in fact, did not pass any local bill or resolution during its session yesterday because the discussion was mostly on the appropriations measure, House Local Bill 17-33.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul's original HLB 17-33 seeks to appropriate \$3.260 million in poker revenue to fund the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance and over 10 other programs and activities in fiscal year 2011.

But SNILD's Ways and Means Committee, which Yumul chairs, recommended changes to the local bill, in-

Vendor of Viagra-like tablets pleads guilty

The operator of a retail store in western Garapan who is charged with selling unapproved erectile dysfunction drugs pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court as part of a plea deal.

Wei Yuan Ou and counsel Stephen Woodruff signed a plea agreement with assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley.

Ou, 46, pleaded guilty to two counts of selling misbranded drugs in interstate commerce. The offense carries a maximum penalty of one year in prison or less, and a fine of not more than \$1,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja ordered the U.S. Probation Office to prepare a presentence investigation report.

Sentencing will be on July 15, 2011.

O'Malley informed the court that the offense is a misdemeanor and that it has no implication for deportation.

Garrett Chinn, special agent with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Office of Criminal Investigations Honolulu Domicile Office, stated that Ou bought the erectile dysfunction drugs in China and sold them at his retail store, the SU US MART.

Chinn said an undercover agent was able to buy 17 tablets of the drug worth \$70 from the defendant on Feb. 14, 2011, and 12 more tablets worth \$48 on Feb. 17, 2011.

The special agent said that erectile dysfunction drugs like Pfizer Inc.'s Viagra are medicines that require a doctor's prescription for purchase. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

creasing the total appropriation to \$3.335 million.

If the five floor amendments offered yesterday by different lawmakers were to be considered, it would bring the total appropriation to at least \$3.360 million.

SNILD chair Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) recommitted the bill to Yumul's Ways and Means Committee, to consider whether to accept or reject the amendments separately offered by Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), House minority leader Diego Benavente (R-Saipan), and Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

Committee version of the bill

Yumul's original HLB 17-33 appropriates \$3.260 million in poker revenues. But SNILD's Ways and Means Committee recommended changes to the original bill, raising the total appropriation to \$3.335 million.

HLB 17-33, Draft 1, still gives \$3 million to SHEFA, and another \$100,000 for SHEFA's operations.

The committee also retains the following appropriations in the original HLB 17-33: \$20,000 for the 30th Flame Tree Arts Festival; \$10,000 for the Saipan Fishing Derby; and \$45,000 for the Liberation Day activities.

The committee increases the proposed funding for the Saipan Little League, from \$20,000 to \$25,000, and for the

Saipan Zoning, from \$45,000 to \$75,000.

It, however, decreases funding for the Agricultural Fair, from \$20,000 to \$10,000.

The committee also added new items for appropriations: \$10,000 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District; \$10,000 for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council for its operations not to include travel; \$10,000 for the purchase of maintenance and upkeep equipment for the Oleai Sports Complex; \$10,000 for the Division of Youth Services' 30th anniversary celebration; and \$10,000 for the upcoming Pacific Mini Games.

Cabrera's floor amendment seeks to remove the \$10,000

for the Saipan Fishing Derby and redistribute it among three schools for their maintenance equipment: \$3,000 for Saipan Southern High School, \$4,000 for Hopwood Junior High School, and \$3,000 for Kagman High School.

Dela Cruz's amendment, meanwhile, is mostly about changes in the expenditure authority.

Fred Deleon Guerrero's floor amendment decreases funding from three items amounting to \$15,000, and add it all to SHEFA's operations and personnel funding.

Benavente's proposal is mostly to fund two new activities or programs: \$20,000 for the Neighborhood Watch Program, and \$5,000 for Kobleville

Elementary School.

Joseph Deleon Guerrero's amendment, meanwhile, is just a rider on the local bill and has nothing to do with the original appropriation. It only seeks to re-appropriate left-over funds of \$10,791, from Saipan Local Law 14-31, to go toward Precinct 1's pedestrian crosswalk project.

Yumul said that based on Department of Finance re-

cords, there were 370 poker machines whose licenses were renewed as of March 31, 2011. For the whole 2011 they expect 579 poker machines whose licenses will be renewed, for total revenue of \$3.474 million. Each machine's license fee is \$6,000 annually.

Yumul said it would be better if the delegation does not appropriate the maximum projected revenue.

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NMI joins National Prescription Drug Take Back Campaign

For the first time, the CNMI is joining this year's National Prescription Drug Take Back Campaign, an awareness program on the proper and timely disposal of unused or expired prescription drugs.

U.S. Attorney Alicia A.G. Limtiaco announced yesterday the CNMI's participation in the campaign—also called the National Take Back Initiative—in a news briefing yesterday at the U.S. Attorney's Office at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan.

NTBI's purpose is to provide venues for people who want to safely dispose of unused or expired prescription drugs.

Limtiaco encouraged people to par-

ticipate in the campaign on Saturday, April 30, by turning in their unused or expired medicines at the parking lot of Horiguchi Building.

Limtiaco said the U.S. Attorney's Office has been partnering with law enforcement and health agencies for the initiative, which started in 2010. She said they also reach out to the *man'amko* or senior citizens.

Limtiaco underscored the importance of disposing of unused and expired medicines, saying that everyday up to 2,500 youth with ages 12 to 17 abuse a pain reliever to get high for the very first time.

The proper and timely disposal of prescription drugs at home reduces the likelihood of abuse by family, friends, or visitors, she added.

Michael Puralewski, the Drug Enforcement Administration resident in charge for Guam and CNMI, said that 100 tons of prescribed drugs—either expired or excess—were turned in nationwide during last year's NTBI.

Puralewski said the campaign for proper disposal of unused or expired medicines is one of DEA's top priorities.

Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez said the initiative is a great opportunity for people to turn in un-

DEA has new resident agent-in-charge for Guam, CNMI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Drug Enforcement Administration has replaced Guam-CNMI resident agent-in-charge Antonio Marquez with Michael Puralewski, who has been occupying the post for a month now. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Marquez was reassigned to the DEA headquarters.

Puralewski said yesterday that they are now in the process of reinstating local enforcement officers in the DEA-CNMI Task Force.

He said it is his job to make sure that enforcement officers for both the DEA

and the CNMI Department of Public Safety work together.

"There will be no successful operation if it is done independently. DEA cannot be working independently. It is required that we have to work with other law enforcement agencies," he said.

He said DEA now has a good working relationship with the CNMI administration and that he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial had a meeting yesterday.

In October 2009, Fitial stated he would lodge a complaint against the DEA for breach of protocol when it failed to inform him of an ongoing investigation into his former driver's "ice"

dealing activities, saying it could have endangered his life and that of his family.

At the time, Fitial said the only way he will assign local enforcement officers back into the DEA Task Force is if and when Marquez is replaced.

Puralewski said DEA's relationship with the CNMI administration is very strong.

"My boss Robin Dinlocker has been down here many times. She is also want to make sure the relationship with the government and other law enforcement agencies is strong and functioning. And right now it is a functioning relationship," he said.

Reinstating the local enforcers in the task force, Puralewski said, is now only a matter of administrative process.



Puralewski

\$80M

From Page 1

"DPL has no legal obligation to pay land claims out of DPL-generated revenues. All income from land investment is reserved for homestead development and improvement programs; the rest are for the operations of the office," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta cited a 2010 Supreme Court ruling that declared "unconstitutional" Public Law 16-31, which requires DPL to pay land compensation judgments out of revenues from land leases.

The court had said that if PL 16-31 is held valid, DPL's operations

budget would be overwhelmed with land compensation judgments and the Public Land Trust would effectively be defunded to the detriment of the people of Northern Marianas descent.

But Babauta, a former House speaker, said DPL under his administration has started working on a process that will transfer these land claims to the responsibility or jurisdiction of other government agencies.

For example, all land claims related to right-of-way could be transferred to the Department of Public Works.

Land claims related to wetlands, meanwhile, could be transferred to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and to some extent, the Coastal Resources Management.

"DPL's Land Claims Division is looking at every option, whether we can do it administratively or through legislation," Babauta added.

He said the end goal is to remove these land claims from DPL.

"DPL is not in the business of land compensation and land exchange. We're charged under the Constitution to invest, not compensate," he added.



Babauta

GAS

From Page 1

on Tinian or Rota would need to work more than an hour just to be able to earn enough to buy at least a gallon of gas.

On Tinian, regular unleaded gasoline is now \$5.509 a gallon at SN Five service station, and \$5.574 at Mobil-San Jose service station.

Diesel on Tinian is \$5.656 a gallon, currently available only at Mobil-San Jose.

On Rota, regular unleaded gasoline is \$5.50 a gallon at both the Luta Gas service station and at Sasanhaya service station. The last 10-cent a gallon price hike was on April 8.

Diesel on Rota is at whopping \$6.35 a gallon, according to an employee at the Sasanhaya service station.

Residents said the added cost to transport gas products to the smaller markets of Rota and Tinian is a major factor in the price differences. And it's not only gas prices that are higher on Rota and Tinian than on Saipan, but also food prices as well.

P. Evangelista, a Tinian resident, said yesterday that his weekly budget

for his pickup truck's gasoline used to be only \$30 but the steady increase in prices has forced him to also increase his gas budget to \$50 or so.

"So now I have to cut on expenses related to my social life, like shopping and eating out. I now also use only electric fan rather than my air-con[ditioner] to save on power bills," Evangelista told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lot G. Bunao, manager at JC Café Restaurant, said the climbing prices of gasoline on island has forced their restaurant to require a minimum of \$15 food purchase for them to deliver food within the San Jose village. The delivery service remains free of charge.

"We didn't have a minimum purchase before, but last week we had to start doing it because of the gas prices. But our free pick up service from Tinian Dynasty to JC Café is still available," she added.

Bunao also said that their weekly gasoline budget has increased to \$80, from \$50 as a result of the gas price hikes.

On Rota, Jackie Manglona, a cashier at Lucky Mart, said a gallon of regular gasoline is higher than her salary of \$5.05 an hour, which is the minimum

wage.

"I feel bad about that," she said, adding that her household has been cutting other expenses such as on power and food.

On Saipan, the last round of price increases was on April 6, by another 10 cents a gallon. That was the 11th price change since 2010. And since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least \$1.90 to \$1.95 a gallon in gasoline prices.

National news sources said the unrest in the Middle East and northern Africa has been driving up oil prices, with crude oil hovering around \$105 to \$110 a barrel.

Gennaro Cioffi, president and lead country manager at Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc., had said the prices of gasoline is determined by a number of factors, including changes in the world market wholesale prices of gasoline, and the regional gasoline supply and demand balance.

They also include transportation costs, insurance, local distribution, and marketing costs, government regulations, taxes, and competitive market forces, and investments in retail stations and distribution terminals.

used or expired drugs at home. He said many parents perhaps do not realize that these unused or expired drugs can cause addiction in children.

Villagomez said he will be instructing Rota and Tinian to join the campaign.

Office of Aging director Rose DLG. Mondala said this campaign is important since there is no dumping site in the CNMI for unused or ex-

pired medications.

She said there are also medicines that are being left behind by family members who pass away. These medicines, she said, should be disposed of properly.

The briefing was also attended by Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao, Customs' Lt. Anthony B. Blas, and public health's Warren Villagomez. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

DRESS

From Page 1

Daniel Agulto of Marianas High School bagged the second prize of \$300 and one dinner ticket to Fiesta Resort & Spa for his creation made of Tide sacks with a combination of soda aluminum materials.

Lester Lapuz, also of Marianas High School, won third place and took home \$200 and one dinner ticket as well for his silver surfer handiwork made of cigarette cover with a combination of flower basket wrapping.

"The main goal of the event is to instill and inspire in students the impor-

ance of the 'reduce, reuse, and recycle' ethos," said DEQ's Olivia Tebuteb, who served as this year's event coordinator.

According to Tebuteb, this was the second year they held a fashion show among public and private students.

She said the event also coincides with Earth Day celebration this month.

"Last year was a test run and we had five contestants only. This year was successful because it expanded from five to 40 entries. We're elated for this year's event," Tebuteb told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tebuteb said they plan to hold the event regularly, with plans to have Tinian and Rota high school students participate each year.

SUSPECT

From Page 1

plaint, ICE special agent Isra D. Harahap said that on Sept. 7, 2010, Lin was found in possession of a CNMI driver's license that he had obtained by paying money to a person.

On April 1, 2011, Harahap said, Lin was found in possession of a duplicate CNMI driver's license when he claimed to the Department of Public Safety's Bureau of Motor Vehicles that his driver's license was lost, even though the original license had already been seized by a police officer and subsequently transferred to Homeland Security Investigations.

Citing the U.S. Adult Probation's Office report, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Robert C. Naraja said the charges are serious, Lin lacks community ties, poses a flight risk, and has substance abuse history.

Naraja ordered Lin's detention and set a detention hearing for Thursday at 2:30pm.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler represented the U.S. government at the hearing.

Attorney Joseph N. Camacho, court-appointed counsel for Lin, told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that his client is concerned that he maybe a victim of racial profiling.

Camacho said that Lin was stopped by a Department of Public Safety officer and was questioned about his immigration status. Based on that traffic stop, Camacho said, Lin is now facing federal charges and deportation.

"Mr. Lin raises concerns that federal immigration laws are not applied equally and fairly in the CNMI. Who enforces the immigration laws in the CNMI? This is the question that Mr. Lin wants answered," the lawyer said.

Camacho said that when a police officer stops a motorist, that officer should only ask questions about traffic matters such as driver's license, registration, insurance, etc.

"Any questions about nationality, race, citizenship, work permits are not allowed by law. Just because Mr. Lin is Chinese does not give the police the right to question him about his immigration status," Camacho pointed out.

Special agent Harahap stated in the

affidavit that, on Sept. 7, 2010, traffic officer Tarimai Joseph K. Yangetmai stopped a vehicle for speeding and smelled a strong odor of alcohol coming from the driver, Lin.

Lin presented the officer with a CNMI driver's license issued on June 9, 2010.

In the presence of an interpreter, Yangetmai asked Lin how he obtained the driver's license. The driver allegedly stated he paid \$350 to a Bangladeshi or Indian national.

The officer seized Lin's license and instructed him to contract traffic investigator Norris Kwon about his license.

Lin was not arrested at the time.

On Sept. 9, 2010, Harahap said, a special agent, officer Kwon, and an interpreter met Lin at the Homeland Security Investigations Office of the Resident Agent in Charge office on Saipan.

At that meeting, Lin agreed to cooperate with the investigators to assist them with an investigation into the issuance of his fraudulent driver's license, Harahap said.

On Sept. 13, 2010, Lin told officers he wanted his license back. When an agent told him it could not be returned, Lin stopped cooperating with the investigators.

Harahap said that on April 1, 2011, he approached Lin in front of a poker arcade in San Jose and asked him for any identification documents.

When Lin failed to produce immigration documents to show he was legally present here, Harahap said he informed Lin was under arrest for an administrative violation of federal immigration law.

The special agent said that in the wallet, they found Lin's duplicate CNMI driver's license issued on Sept. 17, 2020 (sic). Harahap said BMV records showed that Lin applied for and obtained a duplicate driver's license on Sept. 17, 2010.

The records also indicated that Lin claimed he lost his license at the beach, even though his original license had already been seized by Yangetmai and subsequently transferred to HSI.

In December 2010, federal agents arrested Mohammad Jahangir Miah, a Bangladeshi auto shop owner who is accused of conspiring with four others to fraudulently obtain driver's licenses in exchange for money.

'CUC needs \$500K to set up lifeline rate for customers'

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will need about \$500,000 to establish a lifeline rate program for its low-income customers, according to the agency's legal counsel.

Deborah E. Fisher, in a 13-page report to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, said that CUC objects to the recommendation of the commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting, to set up the program.

"CUC has a number of objections to this proposal. It is arbitrary, ignores the consensus of the community, and does not account for the fact that this existing rate design is similar in form and application to thousands of utilities across the United States," said Fisher in the report.

She said that CUC's consultant, economists.com, which has done more than 200 rate studies and long-term financial plans for utilities across

North America and the Pacific region, estimates that more than 80 percent of their client utilities have in place an inverted block rate structure with significant discounts for the lowest block usage.

Fisher said CUC is not in a position to implement and enforce "a time consuming and expensive" plan.

"CUC estimates it may cost anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000 to develop and administer such a program," she said.

In addition, she said, comparisons to a telephone company won't work because a telephone landline is not a necessity, unlike power and water.

She said about 55 percent of residential customers are at or below 500 kWh per month—a total of over 6,000 customers.

CUC, she said, believes that its current rate design is just, reasonable and fair and should be maintained. (Moneth Deposa)

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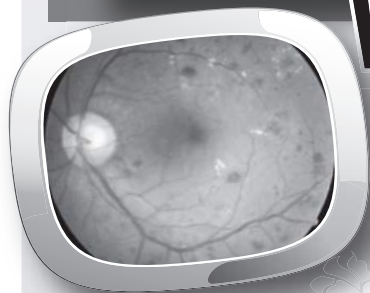


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CUC trade assistants learn about power transformers

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fifteen employees of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. are undergoing a two-week training in Lower Base that will enable them to become fully certified linemen.

Harry Spike Speicher, a professional instructor from the Pacific Linemen Training, said 12 employees from CUC's power division on Saipan and three from Rota are taking part in the training.

Speicher said the training will give participants knowledge and proper learning about transformers to ensure that CUC crew will provide better service to customers and the utilities firm.

According to Speicher, CUC trade assistants must undergo eight different trainings, each one conducted for two weeks and focused on specific areas.

Yesterday's session was the program's class 6 schedule. The participants have already completed the first five



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. trade assistants and their instructors pose for a group photo during a break in yesterday's training in Lower Base.

two-week trainings on climbing poles, pole rigging, how to build by standards, single phase transformers, and underground work.

In June, Speicher's team will be back for the group's class 7 session, this time focusing on metering. There will be a final two-week training in September, where all sessions will be recapped prior to certifying the participants.

According to Speicher, the program started in the CNMI in 2007; 15 linemen were certified for CUC. With the new batch, this will bring to 30 the total certified linemen for the utilities corporation.

Speicher said that certified linemen who follow the National Electrical Safety Code are key to reliable power service.

Jessie Reyes, a trade assistant from CUC Saipan, said the training helps boost his confi-

dence in performing his duties. He said safety is the primary objective of the program.

"It's all about safety. By knowing how to wire the transformer properly and determining the right voltage to build, it's a big help for us," he said. Reyes has been with CUC for almost two years now.

Gerald Manglona, who has been a trade assistant for four years, believes that CUC employees should be encouraged to take the same training because it will benefit them in their jobs and in their personal lives.

Like Reyes, he intends to stay with CUC and share his knowledge and capabilities to improve service to customers.

CUC operates distribution grids or feeders on Saipan, high voltage lines, thousands of utility poles, and manages grids on Rota.

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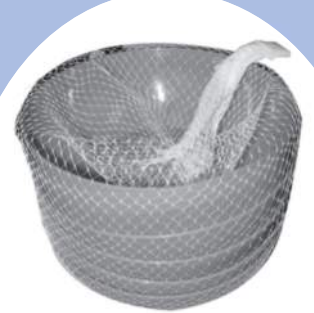
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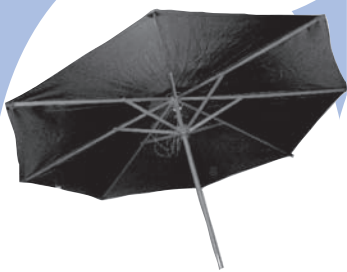
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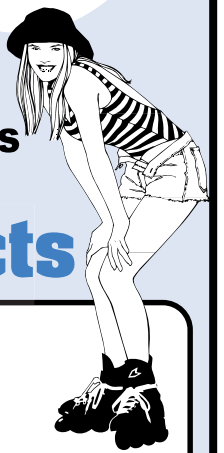


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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo joins Guam Cherry Blossom Princess Paige Ruff at 2011 Cherry Blossom Congressional Reception on Capitol Hill. From left, Angie Borja, Annie Quichocho, Anita Ruff (grandmother), Princess Paige Ruff, Bordallo, and GSA president Mike Blas.

Cherry blossom events honor Japan victims

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Members of Congress and U.S. senators honored the victims of the crisis in Japan during the National Conference of State Societies' Cherry Blossom reception on Capitol Hill and gala dinner.

At the reception, Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. Ichiro Fujisaki expressed the gratitude of the Japanese people for the generosity and support Americans have shown in this time

of need. The reception and gala featured Cherry Blossom Princesses representing 37 states, territories, and countries.

Guam Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo escorted Christina Paige Ruff, who was selected by the Guam Society of America to represent Guam as a 2011 Cherry Blossom Princess.

Paige is the daughter of David Ruff Jr. and Karla Alford and great-granddaughter of Juan

Cepeda, who was a Master Suruhanu in Guam for many decades. Bordallo also spun a wheel at the gala dinner to determine the 2011 Cherry Blossom queen and runner-up. Virginia Princess Jessie Catherine Kennedy was crowned queen and West Virginia Princess was selected the runner-up.

"I congratulate Paige Ruff who represented Guam as a Cherry Blossom Princess," said Bordallo. "The Cherry Blossom

festival celebrates the friendship between the United States and Japan. Americans across the country continue to send aid and support to Japan as recovery efforts continue. The Cherry Blossom events this past weekend have given us an opportunity to call attention to the needs of our friends in Japan and to assure the people of Japan that we are keeping them in our thoughts and prayers." (PR)

Man'amko King & Queen fundraiser in June at PIC



Dandan burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's help for information on a burglary and theft incident at the Flemings Apartment across Torres Refrigeration in Dandan.

On Wednesday, April 13, 2011, at about 6:30am, the victims awoke to find their 32-inch Sony flat screen TV missing. They discovered the point of entry was through a side

window. The rebars protecting the window were bent allowing the suspect(s) of small size to enter the residence. The front glass sliding door was used as the point of exit.

DPS and Crime Stoppers are seeking help from the public. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use its website at www.nmi-crimestoppers.com. Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (NMI Crime Stoppers)

The 2011 Man'amko King & Queen Fundraising event slated for June 1 will be held at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Teresita Sorroza, Saipan Seniors Advisory Council president, said that all congregates and Aging Center staff, including the Title V employees, are invited to the event.

However, only congregates will be allowed to bring one guest each during the event.

The King & Queen candidates will be allowed to bring two guests if they are able to sell a minimum of \$500 worth of tickets.

The 2011 Man'amko King & Queen, a regular event dur-

ing the *Mes Man'amko* or Older Americans Month celebration in May, aims to raise funds through the raffle tickets sold by the candidates.

Tickets are \$1 each and \$5 per six-ticket booklet.

This year's *Man'amko* King candidates are Robert Dela Cruz, Carlito Hernandez, Manuel Mesa, Jess Pangelinan, and Jose I. Torres. The Queen candidates are Pacita Angeles, Isabel Bodiogay, Meryalen Conrad, Hermene Faisao, Sia Muna, Emerenciane Reyes, and Terry Sitae.

To buy tickets from the candidates, visit them at the Aging Center or call them at 233-1320 or 1321. (Clarissa V. David)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 15, 1999

Reyes defends trade zone

A member of the Subcommittee on Free Trade Zone yesterday defended a government plan to establish special economic sites in the Northern Marianas, saying the island must take advantage of its close proximity to Asian countries to entice prospective investors. Rep. Karl T. Reyes, who is part of the group tasked to map out the plan, also underscored its benefits to the local people who will be employed and trained in highly-skilled jobs to be created by companies within the proposed free trade zone. Responding to opposition by the chair of Board of Public Lands, the representative said CNMI must follow the success of other countries, such as the Philippines, and states, like Hawaii, which have set up their own investment areas to help boost their economies.

FEMA, EMO stress private-sector role

In developing local voluntary resources, the private sector has a lot to offer and can perform three major functions in rallying support to emergency management. This was the assessment made by the Federal Management Office and the Emergency Management Office which was discussed during a workshop participated in by government employees. According to both agencies, the private sector offers a potent medium in disseminating emergency management concerns to citizens. It can also supply volunteer personnel and needed logistics for all phases of emergency management.

April 15, 2002

\$2M needed to get 100K more visitors

The Governor's Strategic Tourism Planning Committee has now submitted its final report on tactical ways of bringing in an additional 100,000 visitors from Japan this year. The total price tag of the project: over \$2 million. In line with this, Gov. Juan N. Babauta is set to appeal to the Legislature in the next few days to fund these plans that the committee came up with to set the ball rolling, according to Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente. "We finally got a letter from [DFS Pacific Group president] Mr. Bob Coe, whom I had asked to initiate these strategies to bring in additional tourists from Japan. They've recently submitted their report and their recommendations to the Governor. We are presently communicating with the Legislature and we'll send a formal notice to the Legislature of the plans and ask for their support in funding this, because it will require over \$2 million for us to bring the plan into action," said Benavente Friday.

150 lbs of seized meat burned

Over 150 pounds of deer meat and crabs that were seized by authorities since they were illegally obtained turned to ashes Friday after the Division of Fish and Wildlife burned them at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's incinerator. In particular, burned were 144 pounds of deer meat, and six pounds each of coconut and land crabs. Marianne Teregeyo, Department of Lands and Natural Resources special assistant for correspondence, said the meat were either obtained beyond the designated season for hunting, or by individuals who were not licensed to hunt. Teregeyo said that the meat were confiscated at the Saipan International Airport.

April 15, 2003

PSS wants to write off \$40K travel advances

The Public School System wants to write off some \$40,000 worth of travel advances, which were found out to have actually been used by about 400 former PSS students for their academic-related activities such as Spelling Bee competitions. PSS finance director Richard Waldo said the amount was the cumulative expenses of students for various activities from 1992 to 1999. Apparently, each student had accounts ranging from a high of \$25-\$50 to a low of \$2. "We want to recommend to write off their account. We're talking here of (an average amount of) \$25 for inter-island trip per student. How can you go after them by now? They may not even remember what activities they had used the money for," said Waldo.

PSS gets \$1M in reading grant

The Public School System has received a new federal reading grant worth about \$1 million, which is primarily designed to cater to more than 2,500 upper elementary-fourth to sixth-students in the CNMI. PSS federal program officer William P. Matson said yesterday that the new grant would complement the federally mandated Reading First, which targets kindergarten to third grade students nationwide. "This is a competitive grant that we're very grateful to have received for our upper elementary students. This means that all our students from all grade levels will have a specialized reading program. It's not going to be just the K-3 level," Matson explained.



NEW SHEFA BOARD

Re-elected board chair Jose C. Mafnas, center, is flanked by new members and officers of the board of Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance. From left are board secretary Terri Camacho, board member John Tenorio, administrator Henry Hofschneider, Mafnas, board member Vina Saures, member Josephine Sablan, and member Ursula Aldan.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

CUC posts \$5.3M operating loss for water, wastewater in FY2010

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. recorded a combined operating loss of \$5.3 million for its water and wastewater divisions last fiscal year, according to its chief financial officer, Charles Warren.

In testimony filed with the

Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission on April 5, Warren disclosed that the operating loss for water reached \$1.44 million, while that of wastewater amounted to \$3.87 million, covering the period from October 2009 to September 2010.

CUC, however, managed to show an operating income of \$14,000 for water from Octo-

ber 2010 through Jan. 31, 2011, while wastewater continues to record an operating loss of \$797,000 during the same period, Warren said.

"CUC does not have excess income from June 2010 forward for water. Basically, as of January, our water operation is breaking even and our sewer division operated at a larger

loss than expected. While water was supposed to be subsidizing wastewater, the reality was that water did not have money to subsidize wastewater," Warren told the CPUC in his testimony.

Saipan Tribune learned that as of June 30, 2010, wastewater operation had a loss of \$2.6 million. An additional loss of \$1.2 million was recorded between

June 30 and Sept. 30, 2010.

Water, meantime, had an operating loss of \$246,000 as of June 30 last year and ended the fiscal year with a loss of \$1.44 million.

Warren said there was no surplus from water to pay for wastewater last year because the water division did not generate any excess revenue.

All these numbers are based on the agency's audited financial statements for last fiscal year, according to the financial chief.

CUC has a pending petition with the CPUC to raise both its electric base rate and level-

ized energy adjustment clause to sustain the cost for fuel for power production, operations, and project repairs.

The commission's consultant, Georgetown Consulting, had disagreed with some of the proposals, and cited other "adjustments" that could be made by CUC such as inclusion of "unmetered" revenues. Georgetown earlier said that there is a need for CUC's water and wastewater divisions to reimburse the electric division for the electricity it uses to provide service.

APASEEM to host lecture on new underwater discoveries in the NMI

Have you heard about the Commonwealth's newly developed World War II underwater historical trail? Are you interested in learning more about the trail, along with recent discoveries in the history of local marine sites, ships, planes, and other artifacts?

For the past several years, underwater archaeologists from the United States and Australia have been conducting research on underwater sites in the CNMI's waters. These sites range from post-colonial, turn-of-the-century sites to World War II sites to indigenous sites.

Dr. Jennifer McKinnon of Flinders University, Australia, will be conducting a public lecture relating to some of their more interesting research and discoveries on Friday, April 22, 2011, at the American Memorial Park auditorium, beginning at 6:30pm.

McKinnon will be on Saipan to instruct local scuba instructors regarding the new World War II underwater heritage trail, which is rolling out in May/June this year, and has agreed to lead this special meeting of the Asia Pacific Academy of Science, Education, and Environmental Management.

Everyone is invited to this free lecture, which will be hosted by APASEEM. Seating is limited

so arrive early.

For more information, APA-SEEM's local officer emails are:

jfurey@saipan.com; akaspn@hotmail.com; and ken_krammer0886@hotmail.com. (PR)

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

More than gratitude for military families

(c) 2011, The Seattle Times

As the United States supports military forces in three war zones, the families left behind will get more attention thanks to efforts launched Tuesday by the White House.

More is at work than gratitude and ensuring an oblivious civilian population provides for those who share in the sacrifices of the men and women in uniform. Certainly that element is present.

A scant handful of Americans have served in the military since the country stopped conscripting soldiers in 1973. Nor has the public been directly asked to sacrifice to support conflicts, with their trillion-dollar expenses taken off-budget.

While no one was watching, the demographics changed too. More than half of active-duty National Guard and reservists are married. An estimated 43 percent have two children.

Instead of drafting legions of young men, force requirements are filled through enlistments and heavily augmented with the call-up of reserve units. The mix has more women and older men, who leave families and jobs to serve.

Add in the role of the military as a de facto employment program in tough times, and the dynamic changes. For reservists the cycle repeats again and again.

First lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of the vice president, will visit cities across the United States to promote "Joining Forces," a program coordinated by the Center for a New American Security.

The White House recruited retired Gen. Stanley McChrystal to one of three key advisory positions.

They will lead what is described as a coordinated, comprehensive appeal to community organizations—employers, educators, philanthropists and faith groups—to be mindful of the needs in their area.

Military families have been overlooked as they shared the strain of separation from loved ones in harm's way. Their numbers now defy any response but an extended hand.

France's ban on Islamic veils is misguided

(c) 2011, The Kansas City Star

Decades of low native birth rates in France have transformed the face of the nation, and many fear what that means for the future.

But the temptation to ban Islamic veils there must be fought. The face of France has already been altered. Lashing out at the very few women who wear veils merely deepens a divide between native and immigrant populations.

The ban, after all, isn't really about veils. Only about 2,000 French women are thought to wear them. And, despite popular perception, there is little evidence that those women do so under duress. Instead, the niqab is a religious statement.

What the ban really reflects is anger at Muslims, and, in a broader sense, immigrants.

The French ban that went into effect this week, in that sense, is similar to Kansas' new voter identification program and a bill in Missouri to ban Sharia law. All three are overzealous attempts to solve what were never actually problems. None has any practical value. All, clearly, are primarily statements.

But they are the wrong statements to make as we head into a globalized future.



A kinder, gentler Taliban

By KHAN MOHAMMAD DANISHJU
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

KABUL, Afghanistan—In a strategic shift, the Taliban have apparently decided to take a softer line on issues like education and reconstruction projects in an effort to gain more popular support.

For example, a Taliban leader was recently quoted by Afghan media outlets as saying the movement was not opposed to education and would protect schools in areas they controlled.

The announcement was welcomed by the education ministry in Kabul, and by President Hamid Karzai, who told university graduates that "if it is proved that (Taliban chief) Mullah Omar has really ordered the Taliban not to prevent children from accessing education, I will thank him." In the past, the insurgents have been known to burn down school buildings and attack students. In particular, the Taliban have been violently opposed to educating the nation's girls.

In a telephone interview, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mojahed claimed the insurgents had nothing against education.

"The Taliban are the children of the people; they have emerged from among the people," he said. "The Taliban have always tried to be close to their people and to get their support."

People living in areas under Taliban control report a relaxation of the insurgents' strictly regimented rule over the last year. Some experts see this as a sign the insurgents are readying themselves to take on a more active political role within Afghanistan.

Rahimullah, a father in the Andar district of Ghazni province in southern Afghanistan, said he had been forced to move away from the area to get an education for his children after their school was closed by the Taliban. Recently, however, he has been able to return because schools have been allowed to start operating again.

"The elders asked the Taliban to reopen the schools," he said. "They agreed late last year that the schools should start working again. Our children are very happy — it's as if they've been handed the happiness of the entire world."

Ali Khan, a teacher in the Tangi high school in the Sayed Abad district of Wardak province said he had fled his home for fear of being targeted. Now he has returned to his job.

"We don't know why the Taliban have become so flexible," he said. "I left my home because I was a teacher and I was scared. But now the Taliban are encouraging us to go into school and teach."

The Taliban's more flexible approach is not restricted to education. Insurgent groups used to obstruct and derail reconstruction projects in many parts of the country. Now, they're allowing certain

projects to go ahead.

The governor of Kapisa province northeast of Kabul, Mohammad Sharif Hakimzadah, said the Taliban were no longer interfering in projects there.

Romal, who lives in the village of Mirakhel in Kapisa's Tagab district, said the Taliban used to refuse to let non-governmental organizations operate in the area and had killed workers and security guards working on such projects.

Over the past year, their approach had changed, he said.

"I'm one of the people working for an NGO and building bridges and wells. The Taliban move all around this area, but they don't bother us," he said.

Some Taliban are even softening their ban on listening to recorded music and their insistence that men grow beards.

Rohullah, from the Sayed Abad district of Wardak province, southwest of Kabul, said the Taliban no longer harassed men if they trimmed or shaved their beards.

"Look — I've cut my beard very short," he said. "Some men are completely clean-shaven, yet the Taliban leave us alone. They used to be against people listening to music, but now they act as if they're deaf when they hear it."

Government officials and political analysts believe the change in approach represents a new tactic.

Wardak provincial governor Abdul Alim Fedai believes the insurgents are under pressure to make concessions, because of the combination of intensified NATO attacks against them and the creation of a High Peace Council to explore ways towards reconciliation.

"If the government and the coalition forces continue their current policies, many Taliban will undoubtedly split off from their commanders and leaders," Fedai added.

Abdul Ghafur Liwal, who heads the Afghanistan Regional Studies Center, believes the Taliban are making pragmatic choices so as to present themselves as a more viable alternative.

"If the Taliban want to prepare the ground for a better political future, they have to build up their authority and win popularity among the people," he said. "That's the reason they have started becoming more flexible."

Khan Mohammad Danishju is a reporter in Afghanistan who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: www.iwpr.net. For information about IWPR's funding, please go to <http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?top—supporters.html>.

The world in a potato chip

By **ED STEPHENS**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.



If we could see the world in a grain of sand then we'd never leave the beach. Unfortunately, the planet isn't such a neatly fractal proposition, so instead of finding wisdom in a speck of sand, would you settle for economic wackiness in a potato chip?

I hope so.

So I start with an observation from Clark Howard, who is a consumer adviser with a syndicated radio show. I heard Howard interviewed by another radio host, and he, Howard, made an observation about unit pricing. I am paraphrasing from memory for basic gist: Although "unit prices" are often posted in stores (such as cents per ounce for a package of food), people known by the snack food industry as "heavy eaters" will sometimes pay more per unit for a bigger package than they will for a smaller one.

I didn't hear the rest of the interview, since that observation hijacked my brain. It's the economic equivalent of watching gravity go up, instead of down. Ha! I love it.

So if we're contemplating a bag of, say, potato chips, the big bags might actually cost more per chip than the small ones do.

First, plain language: It's a premise in economics that the more of a good you have, the less you value each additional unit of it. Translation into egghead talk: A buyer's marginal (incremental) utility of something decreases as the quantity of it increases.

Anything will serve as an example. I'll pick a random object: a computer. Let's say you don't have a computer and you want to buy one. You see one for, say, \$800, which suits your tastes. So you buy it, and off you go.

The next day, the salesman calls you up and asks if you'd like to buy another, identical, computer for \$800. Well, you'd probably say no thanks. So let's say the salesman was in the mood to cut a deal. How about \$700? No, again. Then how about \$400? Hmm, well, at \$400, it sure would be nice to have a spare. OK, \$400 it is. We could drag this example through more iterations, but you get the point.

The big idea is that each additional computer is less and less valuable to you, although each computer is identical to the others. So it's not their "intrinsic" value that is changing; there's no such thing as intrinsic value. There's only market value, and this is nothing more than what people are actually willing to pay for something.

Of course, many things, such as apples, or gasoline, or whatever, are simply priced at a level cost per unit to the consumer, regardless of quantity. You buy gas by the gallon; it's the same price per unit, whether it's one gallon or 100 gallons. Still, you wouldn't buy 10,000 gallons unless you got a really, really steep discount, so declining marginal valuation is still a factor here, but just doesn't kick

in at the quantities we normally buy. Anyway, this flat-price situation makes sense; we see it every day.

On the other hand, many other things are priced with an intentional reduction per unit as quantities increase. This can squeeze more sales (and profit) out of the gig for the seller. For example, a case of soda pop is usually priced cheaper, per can, than buying a single can is. This entices you to buy more soda. This also makes sense.

So, what's up with this "heavy eater" phenomenon, where someone pays not the same, and not less, but actually pays more (more!) per unit for more units?

Here's my theory: People place value on being able to indulge their impulses. Someone who really likes a snack food is likely to just want to pick up of the big bag of it, get home, and dig into it. Declining marginal utility isn't on their mind. In other words, they're willing to pay a premium to indulge the sheer yummy bigness of the bag.

Even if a potato chip is trivial, the idea of assigning value to impulsivity is pretty cool, I think. So moving beyond snack foods, we can ponder a bigger point, or, actually, two extreme points to define a spectrum of basic behavior: Some people place a very low value on impulsiveness, in fact, they consider it a vice. But other people arrange their entire lives around their impulses, and this is key driver behind their decisions. And, of course, many people are in the middle, between the two extremes.

Still, I think anyone who can account for impulsivity, or even measure it, can do a good job of out-thinking the markets. After all, the people who do the quantitative thinking tend not to be impulsive, and hence tend to under-emphasize the importance of impulsivity in the world. This moves societies, and, by extension, markets.

So can we see the entire world in a potato chip? Maybe not, but it's a good start.

Iran sees opportunity in Egypt

By **ALI REZA ESHRAGHI**

THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

While the United States watches events in Egypt with concern, officials in Tehran view the continued unrest with undisguised satisfaction.

From Iran's point of view, whatever eventually emerges from the protests has to be better than the government that preceded it.

Gen. Hossein Salami, the deputy commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, expressed delight at recent developments, saying, "Egypt is the heart of the Arab world, and now it is the heart of political and social change and of revolution in the Arab world."

Iran's official Fars news agency has urged the Egyptian authorities "not to allow military or security forces to resort to violence in dealing with this popular wave."

It was an ironic request, coming from a news agency known to have close ties with the Revolutionary Guards, which, in turn, played

a key role in cracking down on popular protests following President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's controversial reelection in 2009.

In fact, both the Iranian government and its opposition have attempted to spin the unrest in Egypt to their own advantage.

The government portrays the uprising as evidence of the influence of its own 1979 Islamic revolution.

Opposition leader Mir-Hossein Mousavi, on the other hand, contends that the protests are modeled on the Green-Movement demonstrations that followed the presidential election in 2009.

And unlike authoritarian leaders in neighboring Arab counties who view the prospect of reform and democracy with dread, Tehran is unconcerned by the consequences of a democratic revolt aboard.

That is because almost any kind of regime change in Egypt is likely to produce leaderships that are less hostile to Iran than the current one.

Iran also believes that democratic movements will offer it new avenues to build influence in these countries. After all, the government of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has long been a stalwart supporter of the United States.

In fact, Iran has fewer problems with regional states that have a semblance of democracy than with those ruled by autocrats. Islamists rose to power through elections in Turkey and relations have never been better. In Iraq, Tehran now has friends in high places in the shape of an elected president and prime minister.

Non-democratic states, on the other hand, pose direct threats to Iran. For example, WikiLeaks cables reveal the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Jordan all urging the United States to take military action against Iran in order to block its nuclear development.

In fact, whether it's the Muslim Brotherhood or a secularist like Nobel Peace Prize winner Mohamed ElBaradei who succeeds Mubarak, Iran feels it can't lose. After all, it was ElBaradei who, as head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, held out against U.S. pressure to accuse Iran of shifting its nuclear program to weapons production.

It nothing else, Mubarak's departure will almost certainly be followed by the reopening of the Iranian embassy in Cairo after a 32-year absence.

So it's no surprise that Tehran feels well positioned to gain politically in the region come what may.

"The new Middle East is taking shape," wrote Hossein Shariatmadari, the editor-in-chief of the hard line daily Kayhan. "Contrary to (ex-U.S. president George) Bush's wishes, it is being formed with Iran at the center."

Ali Reza Eshraghi is the Iran Program editor for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict.

Letters to the Editor

What do we want?

What do we want? We want foreign investments. How can we get foreign investment? By laws and regulations that are investor-friendly. Not investor-stupid that become instruments for greedy hands to play with, mind you, but investor-friendly. Meaning laws and regulations encouraging legitimate investors.

How do we make ourselves investor-friendly? By enacting laws and promulgating regulations that are not overly protective. How do we do that? A perfect example is the recent requirement for a deposit of \$3 million on land leases. The original land lease of Neo Gold Wings was revoked, because the company did not meet payment schedules and development timelines as stipulated in the lease agreement. That was it. End of lease agreement. The land was again ours. Now, the company has come back willing to pay its delinquent account and make an advance payment in exchange for the same conditions to be placed back into the new agreement. Yet here we are adding new rules that are even more ridiculous. I mean, really! What would a deposit of \$3 million guarantee? I honestly don't know the answer to that. Therefore, my only conclusion is that it is a stupid regulation.

Now, if someone comes forward and asserts creditable concerns about the environmental and social impacts of such an investment

then I might be swayed otherwise or simply keep my mouth shut. In the meantime, we are in dire economic straits, yet we are still riding on our high horses.

I think it is time for us to get down and walk alongside anyone brave (or perhaps stupid?) enough to pursue such an ambitious development. But then again look at how Las Vegas turned out. It would certainly be a wonder that Bugsy Siegel has come back to life as a Korean national with morals so far removed from that of a gangster!

Juanita M. Mendiola

Marpo Valley, Tinian

Please investigate

Cape Air had a scary flight on Sunday from Guam to Saipan. A mechanical problem occurred while in the air, which prompted an emergency landing at the Saipan International Airport. The fuselage was shaking while in midair. CPA should call on the FAA or NTSB to investigate Cape Airlines before a major accident happens. This is about the 5th time a mechanical problem has occurred within the last two months. Their flights kept getting delayed or canceled. How old are the airplanes? How safe is it to fly with Cape Air? Continental's spokesperson needs to explain this incident. Please look into this quickly.

Antonio Aldan

Kagman Saipan

Stop!

Dear young adults and fellow Saipanese, I have the experience. So I would like to share some inspirations to help with some coping skills and alcohol problems and substance abuse. This month is Underage Drinking Prevention Month. If you are or think you are having a problem, then you do. Please seek help with CGC or Bravo, DPS or other professionals. What does it take to change the essence of a person?

"Stop"

Stop the abuse, don't be obtuse

For those of you, who don't know what this means

Stop the hurt, stop the pain, stop the anger; stop the hate, stop the yelling

Stop, stop, stop

Stop being a jerk, stop the drinking, stop the drugs

Don't be obtuse, stop the abuse.

"Reality"

Better get straight, before it's too late, I've been there

Reality check, it happen now, before you die and go under the plow.

Many can help, only you can learn, better get straight, before it's too late.

William H. Kintz

Instructor/project manager, NMTI

San Antonio, Saipan






EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds. Lows around 76.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 75°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Rain	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Rain	▲ 82 ▼ 76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 78

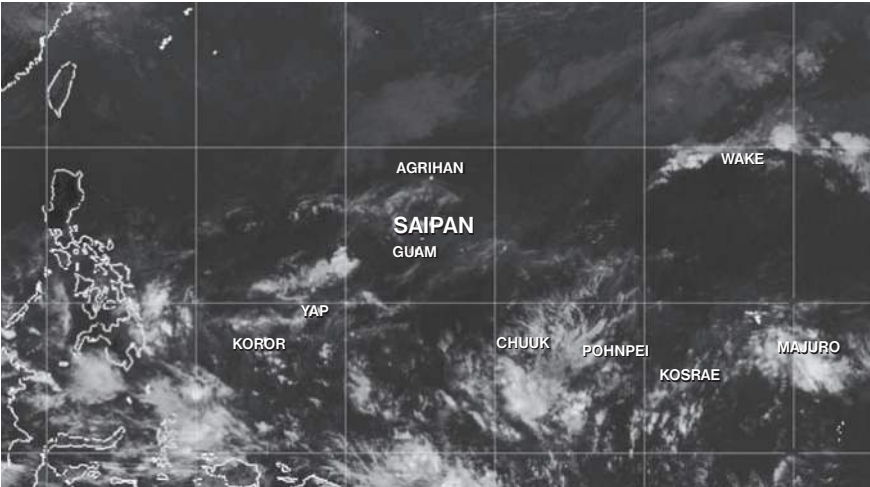
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 48
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 70
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 72
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 52
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 54
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 71
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 47
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 69 ▼ 58
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 44
Pusan	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 55
Rome	Rain	▲ 61 ▼ 48
Salem	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 44
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 49
Seoul	Showers	▲ 64 ▼ 44
Tokyo	Windy	▲ 71 ▼ 60
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲ 69 ▼ 50

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:19 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
11:36 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
5:21 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
11:43 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2011

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N160E to 22N150E then continues as a shear line to end well north of Yap at 19N140E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 200 miles northwest of this boundary. Convergent northeast winds are producing scattered showers northwest of Wake Island within 130 miles of a line from 20N157E to 25N169E. A weak circulation is centered just east of Wake Island at 19N167E. Scattered showers are present within 80 miles of a line from 19N161E to 21N170E to 19N175E. A fragmented shear line runs from 14N145E to 14N141E then continues from 12N140E to beyond 11N130E. Scattered showers are found west of Tinian and Saipan along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line east of 141E while showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Yap and Koror along and up to 80 miles north of this boundary west of 140E. A weak circulation is centered south of Koror at 3N134E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found between the equator and 4N from 130E to 133E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Chuuk and west of Pohnpei between 1N and 8N from 149E to 157E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers south of Kwajalein and near Majuro within 120 miles of a line from 8N168E to 5N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:02 AM	6:32 PM
Monday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:32 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:37 PM	3:17 AM
Saturday	4:38 PM	4:03 AM
Sunday	5:39 PM	4:49 AM
Monday	6:42 PM	5:39 AM
Tuesday	7:47 PM	6:31 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM C09317 4:25am 5:15am Daily C09313 7:55am 8:45am 3, 6 C09313 8:30am 9:20am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09601 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09603 3:05pm 3:55pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09605 6:20pm 7:10pm Daily C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	GUAM-SAIPAN C09316 2:45am 3:35am Daily C09596 6:35am 7:25am 3, 6 C09596 7:00am 7:50am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09600 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C09602 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C09604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily C09606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:10am 8:45am Daily DL285 6:40am 9:15am 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 DL297 4:35pm 7:15pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:05pm Daily DL286 7:45pm 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 DL288 8:00pm 12:30am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50am 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:10pm 2:20am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:25am Daily via KIX	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) FM844 2:50am 5:40am 2, 6	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN FM843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) CA988 3:15am 6:55am 1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN CA987 6:40pm 1:55am+1 4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09317/891 4:25am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL285/173 6:40am 10:15pm 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT C09313/933 7:55am 9:25pm 3 via GUM C09313/893 7:55am 11:00pm 3 via GUM-Palau C09603/933 3:05pm 9:25pm 5 via GUM C09603/893 3:05pm 11:00pm 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 ICN OZ604/715 3:20pm 11:30pm 7 C09605/933 6:20pm 9:40pm 1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C09599/PR111 9:30pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ716/603 12:30am 2:20pm 4, 6 via ICN DL172/286 8:05am 12:20am+1 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 C0890/9606 10:55am 8:50pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 1:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:25am+1 6 via GUM PR110/C09596 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM-Palau C0892/9596 10:25pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM-Palau C0934/9596 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 2, 7 via GUM C0934/9596 11:25pm 7:50am+1 4 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:25am+1 3 via GUM C0934/9596 11:59pm 7:50am+1 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C09603/909 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:35pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0910/9596 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
■ CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FENNEL'S CLAIMS IN LAWSUIT DISMISSED

Ex-Bank of Saipan receiver OK'd to file amended suit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court issued Wednesday allowed former

Bank of Saipan receiver Randall T. Fennell to file an amended complaint in connection with his lawsuit against former attorney general Matthew T. Gregory, acting AG Gregory Baka, and two government lawyers.

If Fennell fails to file an amended complaint on or before April 28, 2011, the court will dismiss all his claims with prejudice, said U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood.

Dismissed with prejudice means the case cannot be reopened. Tydingco-Gatewood issued the order after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit remanded the case to the federal court.

Fennell's lawsuit contained allegations that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial committed fraudulent misrepresentation when he was then acting president and chief executive officer of Bank of Saipan.

Fennell, however, did not name Fitial as defendant in the suit. Instead, he sued Gregory, Baka, and assistant attorneys general Anthony Welch and Tom J. Schweiger for conspiracy, obstruction of justice, and deprivation of rights.

Fennell is demanding damages and attorney's fees. Fennell alleges that the defendants violated his 14th Amendment due process right to conflict-free counsel and First Amendment rights to free speech and access to the courts.

Fennell is claiming that the defendants' actions and inaction were intentional and concerted efforts to deny him independent, conflict-free counsel, to frustrate and to hinder his exercise of his First Amendment rights to free speech and the right to access to the courts, and to retaliate against him for his actions in defending himself in the Bank of Saipan lawsuit.

The federal court on Sept. 28, 2009, granted in part and denied in part the attorneys general's motion to dismiss the lawsuit. The attorneys general appealed to the Ninth Circuit the district court's denial of the AG's absolute and qualified immunity from suit.

Judge Tydingco-Gatewood cited the Ninth Circuit ruling on the AG's appeal.

Fennell's claim for violation of his substantive due process rights is dismissed with prejudice, because the attorneys general are entitled to qualified immunity with respect to his (Fennell) 14th Amendment due process claims;

Fennell's claim for violation of his First Amendment rights is dismissed without prejudice, for failure to state a claim under the pleading standards; and

Fennell's claim for violation of his equal protection rights is dismissed without prejudice, for failure to state a claim by failing to allege a different treatment from individuals in the same situation.

Tydingco-Gatewood said that with the district court's order of Sept. 28, 2009, standing in all other respects, all causes of action in the lawsuit are dismissed.

Opportunity for organic farmers to adopt conservation practices

WASHINGTON—Here is another funding opportunity for certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic production to implement resource conservation practices on their agricultural operations.

While applications are accepted on a continuous basis, the cutoff date for this application period is set for May 20, 2011.

"Organic growers continue to express interest in program support to implement conservation practices," said USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service chief Dave White. "This additional opportunity will allow more producers to get assistance in protecting the natural resources on their land and creating conditions that help foster organic production."

Fiscal year 2011 marks the third year of USDA's Organic Initiative. Up to \$50 million is available this year to help producers to plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in ways that are consistent with organic production. For example, conservation practices might include planting cover crops, establishing integrated pest management plans, constructing seasonal high tunnels, or implementing nutrient management systems consistent with organic certification standards.

Eligible producers include those certified through USDA's

National Organic Program (<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/nop>) those transitioning to certified organic production, and those who meet organic standards but are exempt from certification because their gross annual organic sales are less than \$5,000.

Organic Initiative funding is provided through NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program, a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. The 2008 Farm Bill provided assistance specifically for organic farm operations and those converting to organic production.

Under EQIP Organic Initiative contracts, NRCS provides financial payments and technical assistance to help producers implement conservation measures in keeping with organic production. Beginning, limited resource, and socially disadvantaged producers may obtain additional assistance. The 2008 Farm Bill limits EQIP payments for organic operations to \$20,000 per year per person or legal entity, with a maximum total of \$80,000 over six years.

Producers interested in applying for EQIP Organic Initiative funding must submit applications through their local NRCS Service Center, which can be located through the Web site at <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrcs>. (**USDA**)

Registration open for 'MY WAVE On-Stage'

The Marianas Tourism Education Council is still accepting applications for high schools and junior high schools ready to share a creative message on tourism at "MY WAVE On-stage."

"MY WAVE On-Stage" is slated for April 23, 2011, and will give cash prizes to all participating schools for a live performance expressing two related themes: "Tourism is Everybody's Business" and MY WAVE (Marianas Youth Welcome All Visitors Enthusiastically).

"The partners of MTEC have spent the last two months visiting junior and senior high schools on island to educate students on the importance of tourism and get them excited about what role they can play in supporting the Northern Marianas' main industry," said MTEC chair Vicky Benavente. "MY WAVE On-stage" is going to be their opportunity

to express what they feel about tourism, whether through skits, musical compositions, or other presentations."

Groups of at least five students will have up to 10 minutes to perform. Performances will be judged based on Best Theme Presentation, Best Stage Visuals, and Audience Impact. The event will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Cash prizes for schools are \$500 for first place, \$400 for second place, \$300 for third place, and \$100 for all other participating schools. The winner of the event will also be invited to perform during May Tourism Month's Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival at American Memorial Park.

For more information or an application, contact Martin Duenas at the Marianas Visitors Authority at (670) 664-3200. (**MVA**)

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Planning meeting today for Mother's Day Family Fair

The CNMI Women Association is coordinating the first Mother's Day Family Fair, slated on May 1, 2011, from 9am to 3pm, at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan. The committee will be meeting today, April 15, 2011, at 6pm at the Multi-Purpose Center to discuss the event. We are looking for more volunteers. For more information call Rose T. Ada-Hocog at 287-0818. **(PR)**

Autism Society of the CNMI meeting today

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding a meeting today, April 15, 2011, at 5pm at the NMPASI conference room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting.

On Saturday, April 16, 2011, there will be a Hot Dog Walk in celebration of Autism Awareness Month at the Last Command Post in Marpi. The walk will start at 3pm and hotdogs and drinks will be available for all participants.

All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. More information, call 235-7274 or email as_cnmi@yahoo.com. **(ASCNMI)**

Bangladeshi community to mark New Year

The Bangladeshi community on Saipan will be celebrating the Bengali New Year on Saturday, April 16, 2010, at Kilili Beach, from 9am to 7pm. Led by the Bangladesh Cultural Group, Saturday's celebration of the Bangla

New Year marks the entry of the year 1418 (Shovo Nobo Borsho) under the Bengali calendar.

There will be activities for children and adults, food, cultural programs, prizes, and free health and eye checkup. The whole community is invited to join the Bangladesh community and celebrate the new life, bright future, and another year of happiness on this day. For more information, call BCG president Rokibul Islam (Min-tu) at 483-4448. **(PR)**

OPA staff on Tinian, Rota next week

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Tinian on Wednesday, April 27, 2011, and on Rota on Friday, April 29, 2011, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from gov-

ernment officials. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Gaming Control Commission Conference Room on April 27, from 9am to 4:30pm. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office on April 29, from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. All filers are reminded to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. **(OPA)**

6 Saipan beach sites red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged the beaches of the Plumeria Hotel, Aqua Resort Hotel, DPW Channel Bridge, American Memorial Park, Garapan Fishing Dock, and Garapan Beach drainage and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these

sites for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said that samples from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci). These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 38 locations on Saipan on Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

SVES to host Annual Canary Walkathon

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting its Annual Canary Walk-a-thon on Saturday, April 30, 2011, at the school's baseball field, from 7am until noon. The Canary Walk-a-thon committee has various activities planned for the families of San Vicente Elementary School and the community. Members of the PTSA have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, call the school at (670) 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. **(PR)**

MHS Class of 2002 alumni meeting today

The Class of 2002 of Marianas High School will be having a meeting today, April 15, 2011, at the Bolis residence, Navy Hill, Saipan, from 6:30pm to 9pm. For more information, call or text Roxanne Pangelinan at 483-5292 or Beau Tomokane at 483-0805. You can also email Beau, tomokane_bea@yahoo.com and RSVP on Facebook Group Page if possible. **(PR)**

Coalition vs domestic, sexual violence on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, April 16, 2011, Marianas Agupa will feature Maisie B. Tenorio, executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the sexual assault awareness month and the governor's proclamation against domestic and sexual violence. The Chamorro talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. **(PR)**

Comments sought on marine monument

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are now accepting public comments as they prepare a monument management plan for the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

Comments are being accepted through May 5, 2011, and should be sent to Heidi Hirsh, Natural Resource Management Specialist, NOAA, National Marine Fisheries Service, 1601 Kapiolani Blvd 1110, Honolulu, HI 96814. E-mail: Heidi.Hirsh@noaa.gov. **(PR)**

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Feel the difference

NMI farmers urged to sign up for conservation innovation grants

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced the availability of program funding for Conservation Innovation Grants for fiscal year 2011 in the Pacific Islands Area. The program is designed to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation

approaches and technologies.

Applications are being accepted from Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"The Pacific Islands Area is again offering our cooperators the opportunity to demonstrate

new technologies and approaches in conservation," said Larry Yamamoto, NRCS director of the Pacific Islands Area. "This grant allows us to showcase unique methods to conserve our natural resources specific to our islands."

The Department of Agriculture's NRCS administers

CIG. For fiscal year 2011 up to \$300,000 is available for the State Component CIG competition. Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, will be awarded through a competitive grants process with applications accepted from the Pacific Islands Area (Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, and the CNMI).

Applicants should explain the geographic area that the project would benefit, including information about the natural resource concern. Applicants should also describe the innovative technologies or approaches that will be used to address the natural resource conservation concern. Other requirements are identified in the Announcement of Program Funding.

Funding for CIG is made available through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. All

proposed CIG projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers. CIG is not a research program, but rather a tool to stimulate the adoption of conservation approaches or technologies that have been studied sufficiently to indicate a high likelihood of success, and are likely candidates for eventual technology transfer.

CIG will fund projects targeting innovative on-the-ground conservation, including pilot projects and field demonstrations. Technologies and approaches that are commonly used in the geographic area covered by the application, and which are eligible for funding through EQIP, are not eligible for funding through CIG.

CIG funds pilot projects and conservation field trials that can last from one to three years. Grants for approved projects cannot exceed 50 percent of the

total project cost. The federal contribution for a single project cannot exceed \$75,000. At least 50 percent of the total cost of the project must come from non-federal matching funds (cash and in-kind contributions) provided by the grantee.

Applications must be received in the NRCS Honolulu State Office by close of business May 20, 2011. Applications should be sent to: USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Conservation Innovation Grants Program; ATTN: Jeff Harlow; 300 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 4-118 Honolulu, HI 96850.

To view the complete Announcement of Program Funding, visit <http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/cig/index.html>.

To find the office nearest you, visit www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov. (USDA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Chinese Association members present Japan Consul to the Northern Marianas Islands Tsutomu Higuchi, center, with a check for \$5,000 for relief efforts in Japan. Others in photo are, from left, association members Linda Lam, Ta Bun Kuy, association president Jerry Tan, and member Anna Chan.

Chinese Association of Saipan donates \$5,000 to Japan relief

On April 8, 2011, the Chinese Association of Saipan donated \$5,000 toward relief efforts in Japan.

Association president Jerry Tan said, "We would like to offer our heartfelt condolences

to the people affected and offer our sincerest wishes for a speedy recovery. The Chinese Association of Saipan presents this donation to further aid and supplement recovery efforts in the disaster region."

Japan Consul to the Northern Mariana Islands Tsutomu Higuchi said, "Thank you very much to you all. The generosity of the Chinese Association and the rest of the community have been overwhelming. The challenges facing our people are beyond description, but we will recover with these much needed donations." (PR)

30th Year Anniversary Celebration

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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Fried Mahi-Mahi, Sautéed Tofu with Chives, Nimono with Fish Ball, Coco, Rice, Ramen	Shrimp Tempura, Teriyaki Fish Cake, Spicy Sautéed Tofu, Coco, Rice, Ramen	Grilled Saba, Fried Tofu, Spicy Vegetable Gyoza, Coco, Rice, Ramen

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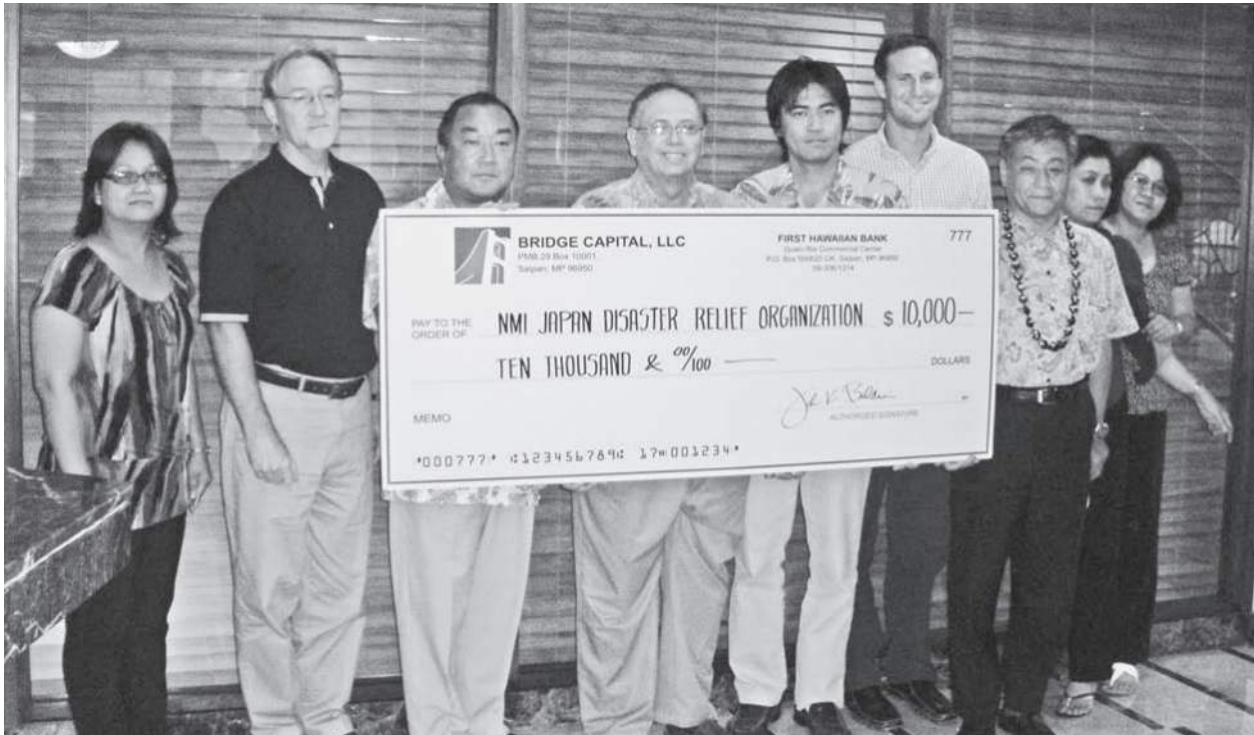
Bridge Capital donates \$10K to Japan relief efforts

Bridge Capital joins the ongoing community effort to help support victims of the recent earthquake and tsunami that ravaged Japan with a donation of \$10,000 to the NMI Japan Disaster Relief Organization.

"Japan is a friend and integral supporter of the CNMI and it is important that we show our support of Japan in these hard times," said Bridge Capital CEO John Baldwin. "Bridge Capital is pleased to donate this \$10,000 and be part of the support effort. We encourage members of the community to continue to get involved and help anyway they can."

Bridge Capital is committed to being a good corporate citizen and is a strong supporter of community relief projects.

Bridge Capital, LLC is an international investment banking and asset management company in the CNMI. The company is involved in a wide range of community activities and makes significant contributions to non-profit and charitable organizations serving the Commonwealth. (PR)



Bridge Capital officials and staff turn over a \$10,000 check donation to the NMI Japan Disaster Relief Organization.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Security officer Charlie Tobia, who is assigned at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, is recognized as G4S Security Services (CNMI) Inc employee of the month for March 2011. He is shown here after being presented with his certificate of appreciation by G4S CNMI branch manager Moises K Pangelinan, operation manager Kathy Q. Casil, and security manager Mafijul Islam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy birthday Dora Grace Ada Camacho! We wish you many more birthdays to come. Love you and enjoy. Greetings come from Auntie Stacy, Unchal Shab, Seancy, Shacey, and Shabjae.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Geraldine Jennifer Ada Sablan! We wish you many more birthdays to come. Love you and enjoy. Greetings come from you Dad, Mom, and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

NEW GRADUATE

Congratulations to Michelle Villacrusis for graduating with a bachelor's degree in Management, major in International Business. We are proud of you! Greetings come from you Dad, Mom, and the rest of the family.

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Special Feature

Triple J Super Fresh Market turns 2

» Several promos, new store manager herald store's second anniversary

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A number of supermarkets or retail stores offer fresh products, but none has unfailingly provided a wide selection of quality meats and garden-fresh produce like the Triple J Super Fresh Market.

What started as a brainchild of Triple J Saipan president and chief executive officer Robert H Jones is fast becoming a ubiquitous part of grocery shopping experience on island now that Super Fresh Market celebrates its second year anniversary.

Jay Santos, Triple J Saipan marketing manager, said the company is part of Triple J Enterprises group of companies, which has been operating retail stores on various islands in Micronesia such as Majuro, Ebeye, and Palau.

"Mr. Jones thought the time was right to start a retail store on Saipan. He felt there was a need to have a store on island that offers quality meat and the freshest produce," Santos recounted. "When Carmen Safeway closed, that was the opportunity he was looking for."

Triple J Saipan acquired a long-term lease of the building and transformed it to house what is now known as Super Fresh Market, which takes pride in its extensive selection of fresh local fruits and vegetables as well as choice meats.

Super Fresh Market also carries popular and quality products distributed by Triple J Five Star Wholesale like the Dreyer's ice cream, the world-renowned Certified Angus Beef, and premium Tyson chicken and pork products.

What's more, Super Fresh Market has an in-store bake-shop that offers freshly baked breads and pastries and brewed coffee to all shoppers.

While Super Fresh Market does import chilled products from the United States and have them air-shipped to Saipan, it still lives up to its name by hav-

ing local produce in its shelves and maintaining only the highest standards in their store.

"We have very high standards which come from Mr. Jones and the entire executive committee. All of them are very much involved with the store," said Santos.

Challenging times

Like any other business on Saipan, Super Fresh Market also has to endure the tough times as the CNMI continues to suffer from the economic downturn, said the marketing manager.

"The population base is down. A lot of locals have moved to the mainland and many contract workers have gone back home. It's been challenging," Santos disclosed.

Nonetheless, Santos maintains that Triple J Saipan remains hopeful that the Commonwealth will soon recover from the unfortunate recession.

"The fact that we're committed to Saipan makes us optimistic. Triple J has been in business for over 25 years and we're here to stay. We're very loyal to the island and we want to continue our business here," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

As a testament to this commitment, Santos said that Super Fresh Market will continue to enhance and improve its services and products starting with the hiring of a new store manager.

Triple J Saipan recently employed the services of Mark Johnson of San Francisco, Calif., who has over 20 years of experience in the retail industry.

"The executives and management team of Triple J is extremely pleased to welcome Mark Johnson to Saipan as the new store manager for Triple J," said Santos. "We're very happy with his experience, which complements what we want for Super Fresh Market. It's going to be very exciting."

Anniversary promotions

To mark its second anniversary on April 17, Super Fresh

Market has a lot in store for its customers.

Shoppers will enjoy great discounts on select items in the fresh meat, grocery, fresh produce, and bakery sections.

Enjoy the tender and flavorful Certified Angus Beef brand items with its 10-percent discount. Markdown prices are also available for Tyson chicken leg quarters, Dungeness crab,

See **TRIPLE J** on Page 23

Triple J Super Fresh Market celebrates its second year on April 17, 2011.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



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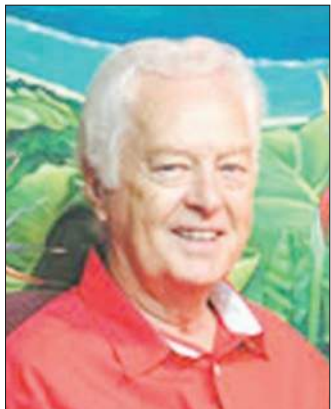


Triple J Super Fresh Market offers a wide selection of garden-fresh produce.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Key promotions at Triple J Enterprises

Robert H. Jones, Triple J Enterprises, chairman & CEO, and outgoing president, recently announced key promotions within the company.



R. Jones

"I am in good health and will continue to be involved in Triple J planning and development, yet it is time to implement a succession plan. I ask that everyone give their support to these proven leaders of Triple J Enterprises," said Jones.

JEFFREY B. JONES Promoted to president/COO, Triple J Group



J. Jones

Jeffrey B. Jones, has been promoted from executive vice president to president and chief operating officer. Jeff is the second-eldest of Robert Jones' three children and was born and raised in Guam. In his new role, he will oversee the company's operations, which include diverse businesses in Guam, Saipan, Ebeye, Majuro, and California.

The Triple J group of companies has several major operations, which include the Triple J Auto Group, which represents Ford, Lincoln, Mazda, Honda, Acura, Kia, Mitsubishi, Suzuki, and a used car dealership. Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods distributes high-quality food items, including Certified Angus Beef, Hawaii Water, and Tyson food products. The Triple J Restaurant Group owns Outback Steakhouse in Guam, Tony Roma's and Capricciosa on Saipan, and the Palau Angus Steakhouse in Palau.

Jones learned the family business from the bottom up. "My first job at Triple J was washing cars," he says. "One of the things you learn is that even if the job is monotonous, sticking to it and seeing it through to completion is important. Not only in a job but in life." His interest in automotive sales led him to eventually head up the company's largest division, Triple J Autogroup. "I enjoy that part of the business," he says. "It's a challenge, it's such a demanding business—being able to manage that and also being able to oversee some of the other businesses, but, fortunately, we have a really good team."

Jones says he has enormous respect for his father as the driving force behind the company. He believes the reason for Triple J's success is its dedication to customers, its employees and personal commitment. "We want to maintain long term relationships with our customers and employees. We're going to be here long-term, we hope they will be too."

Jones graduated from the University of North Carolina with a degree in business. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Guam Chamber of Commerce and was past president of the Guam Auto Dealers Association. With a full plate, he still makes his family and faith a priority. He is a member of the board at the Bayview Church and Pacific Mission Aviation. He stays in shape for his active life by jogging and outrigger canoeing. He and his wife, Jane, have five children: Jessica, Jonah, Jasmine, Jada, and Josiah.

JAY B. JONES Promoted to senior vice president, Triple J Group

Jay B. Jones has been promoted from vice president to senior vice president. He will take on Jeff Jones' previous role in overseeing the Triple J Auto Group.

Jay B. Jones was born and raised in Guam. After graduating from Fr. Duenas High School, he attended Elon College in North Carolina where he graduated with a B.A. in Corporate Communications. Upon returning to Guam with his wife Deane, Jay started in Triple J's management training program, where he held numer-



J. Jones

ous positions within the company. In 1993, Jay enrolled in the National Automobile Dealers Association Management Academy, an intensive year-long course concentrating on automotive management. After graduating from the program, Jay was promoted to the position of sales manager, a position he held until 1997. In early 1997, Jay relocated to Saipan where he managed Triple J's various operations and ultimately served as vice president of Triple J Saipan, Inc. In 2008, Jay returned to Guam where he assumed the role of vice president and general manager of Triple J Auto Group.

Jay and Deane have three children: Jacob, Jenna, and Jeremy. He has served as president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and has also served on the board of directors for the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Saipan, Commonwealth Automobile Dealers Association, and the Northern Marianas College Foundation. He is currently a board member of the Guam International Raceway Motor-

cycle and ATV Corporation. He was selected as the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2001 Business Person of the Year, a distinction he shares with his father Robert H. Jones.

R. DAN MURRELL Promoted to senior vice president, Triple J Group

R. Dan Murrell has been promoted from vice president to senior vice president. He assists in the management of the operations of Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods, the Triple J Restaurant Group, Triple J 24 Hour Mini Mart, and is the principal broker for Triple J Real Estate. Murrell is married to Julie Jones Murrell, Robert H. Jones' eldest child. The Murrells resided in North Carolina until they made the decision to move to Guam in 1992. In 1995,



Murrell

Murrell was promoted from manager of the real estate division to vice president of Triple J Enterprises.

Murrell graduated from Wake Forest University, and was employed in sales and marketing for Carolina Freight, servicing the Tennessee and Georgia area.

Murrell later went to work for Family Health International, in the marketing department of the for-profit division, Clinical Research International, which provides drug studies for pharmaceutical firms.

On the advice of his father-in-law, Robert H. Jones, Murrell became a licensed real estate broker in North Carolina where he continues to maintain a license. Murrell worked on residential development projects in the Raleigh, NC area. "I'm a people person and enjoy working with stakeholders to move projects from the drawing board to physical reality," says Murrell.

Murrell currently serves as vice president of the board of trustees of St. John's School and district chairman for Boy Scouts of America. Murrell says his greatest satisfaction still comes from spending time with his wife and children, and his extended family and friends out on the waters of Micronesia and the North Carolina coast.

MICHAEL SABLAN Promoted to vice president, Finance and Administration, Triple J Group

Michael Sablan has been promoted from corporate auditor to vice president, Finance and Administration. Sablan oversees internal audits across the group and supervises the preparation of financial statements and reports. Prior to joining Triple J, Sablan was the public auditor for the Commonwealth of



Sablan

the Northern Mariana Islands where he oversaw government performance, compliance, and financial audits. Sablan joined Triple J in August 2008.

He has a B.A. in Economics from UCLA and is a certified public accountant, licensed in California and Guam. Sablan is also actively involved with the community. He is the finance chairman for the NMI Boy Scouting Program, past president of the Rotary Club of Saipan, past vice chairman of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and past regional vice president for the Association of Government Accountants Pacific Rim Region. He is also a current member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Guam Society of Certified Public Accountants. (PR)

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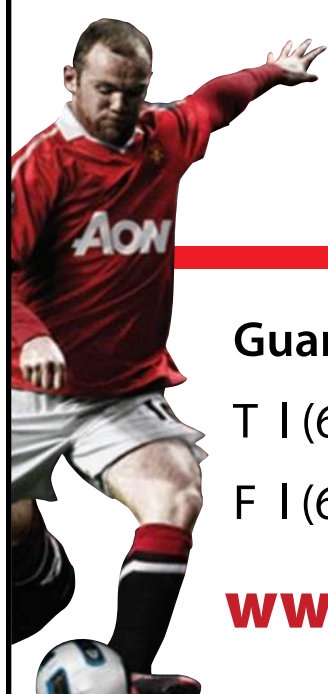
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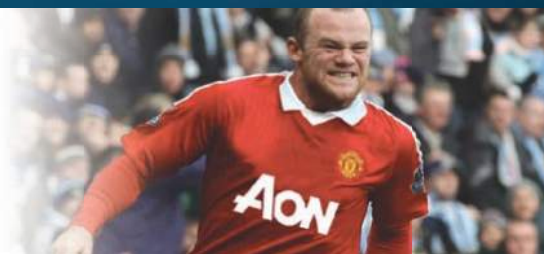
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Making Super Fresh Market the store to beat



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Super Fresh Market store manager Mark Johnson, left is joined by his staff.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Super Fresh Market grew out of an idea by Triple J honcho Robert H. Jones to provide island shoppers with only the freshest and quality products available. With its second anniversary, Triple J Super Fresh Market further enhances its products and services with the hiring of a veteran in the business to be its store manager.

Mark Johnson, who boasts of 23 years of solid grocery experience in the mainland, officially

became a part of the Super Fresh Market team about a week ago.

"I've turned stores around. Wherever I go, I always make positive changes and impact in the stores I've worked for," said Johnson. "I am looking for a new challenge so when Bob Jones offered me the position, off I came to Saipan."

Johnson, who hails from San Francisco, Calif., admits that he has never heard about Saipan before the managerial job was offered to him.

"Saipan is a beautiful island. The people here are very friend-

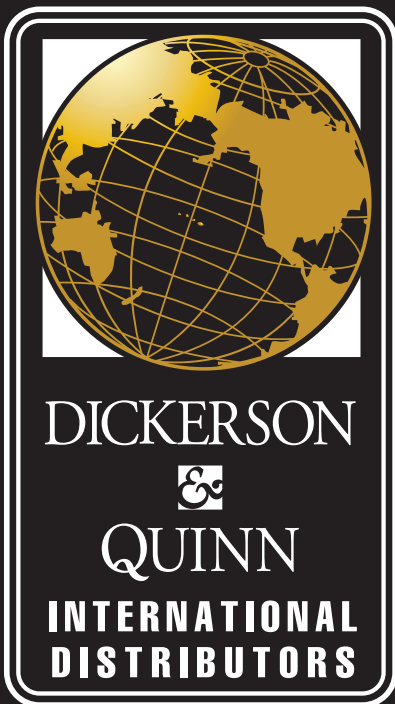
ly," he added.

'More excitement'

According to Johnson, he has been around different stores on island and came to the conclusion that Super Fresh Market was already doing fine and has already established a friendly and positive ambiance for its shoppers.

"But it needs a little more excitement," Johnson told *Saipan Tribune*.

His mission, Johnson said, is "to turn this store around
See MANAGER on Next Page



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MANAGER

From Page 22

into something that everybody would prefer over any other store on island."

"We need to capture the market while we can. We want to create a name for ourselves by having our customers find everything they need at Super Fresh Market," said Johnson.

Johnson said he wants customers to walk inside the store and feel comfortable and at home.

In a week's time, Johnson has already made changes to the store's display and arrangement of items, much to the delight of its regular customers.

"People have started to notice and they've given us positive comments about it. They're the ones saying that the store is turning around. We've really worked diligently to make this happen," he said.

This would not be possible, Johnson said, without the help of Super Fresh Market's 34 wonderful staff who ensure that their high quality of standards are always met.

"Our motto is 'Customers first' so we want take really good care of our customers," he added.

Have there been any negative comments yet? "None so far. The way I look at it, I see a negative feedback as a challenge—a positive way to make changes and improve the store," said Johnson.

Bold plans

Because he envisions a bigger and better Super Fresh Market, Johnson has come up with new and exciting plans for the store.

Super Fresh Market is now

working on getting organic products in their shelves soon. "A lot of our customers are requesting for it and we want them to find what they want here," said Johnson.

Although they would initially obtain these organic products from the U.S., Johnson stressed that they have already been communicating with local farmers who are eager to start organic farming to supply them with needed organic produce.

"We've developed partnerships with local farmers. We intend to support them and get our organic food supply locally. It's a wise choice economically and to help the island community," he added.

Another plan, Johnson said, is to have a fresh seafood and meat shop where their in-house butcher can accommodate requests for special cuts of fresh meats and meat products.

Johnson is also looking into expanding the Super Fresh Bakeshop and Deli by selling the popular Boar's Head products, setting up a grill station so shoppers can enjoy a mouthwatering Philly cheese steak sandwich, and an espresso machine to add to the store's regular coffee offering.

Johnson, however, noted that it will be "challenging" and "exciting" to go with all these plans given the current economic state of the CNMI.

"I look forward to the challenge. What better way to promote the store than face these challenges head on and do something bold to improve it," he said.

Johnson added, "I'm really excited to be here. I am very competitive and intend to beat other stores' sales."

On April 1, Super Fresh Market also launched a monthlong raffle draw where customers will get a chance to win tons of exciting prizes, including a 42-inch television and \$200 shopping sprees.

"The raffle draw is one way of thanking our loyal patrons who have done business with us for a long time, whether in our car business, dining at our restaurants or shopping at Super Fresh Market," said Santos. "We can't think of any other way to thank them other than giving them a nice TV or a shopping spree experience."

Santos also thanked their local vendors and suppliers who have played a significant role in the success of Super Fresh Market.

"Part of running a store is having a good relationship with the vendors and suppliers we do business with. We want to thank them for their support for the last two years," he said.

Shop for freshness, quality, and friendly service only at Triple J Super Fresh Mart. They are open daily from 7am to 9pm. Food stamps are accepted and WIC participants are welcome. For information, call 322-0430.

TRIPLE J

From Page 17

Black Tiger Shrimp, U.S. pork spareribs, and other meat items.

Stock up on low-priced grocery items such as Hereford Luncheon Meat, Del Monte Tomato Sauce, Gold Medal Mayonnaise, Heinz Tomato Ketchup, and assorted Capri Sun juices.

Go healthy with Super Fresh Market's fresh local and imported produce like crown broccoli, Fuji apples, Valencia oranges, red grapefruits, jumbo carrots, and celery stalks.

Have a bite of deli items at bargain rates. Super fresh donuts are priced at \$0.50 each while super fresh white loaf bread is only \$1.90, and both items are on a buy 2, take 1 promo.

Beer promotions are also ongoing for Miller Lite, Heineken, and Budweiser products. Shoppers who buy two cases of Heineken will get a free cotton shirt.

Anniversary sale prices are available until April 21 or while supplies last.

There will also be wine tasting, free Dreyer's ice cream, and assorted giveaways at the store over the weekend.

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Business

Obama: Cut spending, raise taxes on the wealthy

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama coupled a call for \$4 trillion in long-term deficit reductions with a blistering attack on Republican plans for taxes, Medicare and Medicaid on Wednesday, laying down markers for a roiling debate in Congress and the 2012 presidential campaign to come.

Obama said spending cuts and higher taxes alike must be part of any deficit-reduction plan, including an end to Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy. He proposed an unspecified “debt failsafe” that would go into effect if Congress failed to make sure the national debt would be falling by 2014 relative to the size of the overall economy.

“We have to live within our means, reduce our deficit and get back on a path that will allow us to pay down our debt,” the president said in a speech at George Washington University a few blocks from the White House. “And we have to do it in a way that protects the recovery, and protects the investments we need to grow, create jobs and win the future.”

Obama’s speech was salted

with calls for bipartisanship, but it also bristled with attacks on Republicans. They want to “end Medicare as we know it,” he said, and to extend tax cuts for the wealthy while demanding 33 million seniors pay more for health care.

“That’s not right, and it’s not going to happen as long as I am president,” he vowed.

Obama spoke to an audience that included Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., author of the House Republican budget that drew repeated presidential scorn. The Budget Committee chairman later told reporters he had been excited to receive an invitation to the speech, believing the administration was extending an olive branch.

“Instead, what we got was a speech that was excessively partisan, dramatically inaccurate and hopelessly inadequate to addressing our country’s pressing fiscal challenges,” Ryan said. “What we heard today was not fiscal leadership from our commander in chief. What we heard today was a political broadside from our campaigner in chief.”

Fed survey: US economy improves in spring

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy improved in every region of the country this spring, but higher oil prices remain a concern, according to a survey released Wednesday by the Federal Reserve.

Factories were busier, consumers spent more and companies boosted hiring in all 12 of the regions surveyed by the Fed.

But the report also found that high energy prices are putting pressure on businesses to raise their prices. And workers are seeing limited, if any, pay increases because they lack leverage in market where jobs are still hard to find.

Scant wage gains are a major reason Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says inflation won’t spread through the economy this year. That’s limiting businesses ability to raise prices, even though many companies are facing higher costs for raw materials.

The Fed’s report found that manufacturers are having an easier time increasing their prices to other businesses. But retailers have been more limited, fearing they might lose customers.

Bernanke and a majority of Fed officials also predict that the surge in oil prices will lead only to a modest and short-lived increase in consumer prices. But a vocal minority has in recent weeks raised concerns about inflation, saying it may soon time to con-

sider raising record-low interest rates. Fed policymakers are expected to debate that at their next meeting on April 26-27.

Consumer spending picked up modestly in most of the Fed’s 12 regions, despite the higher gasoline prices. Shoppers, however, focused on necessities and lower-priced goods. Auto sales rose and tourism also strengthened in most areas.

A separate report from the Commerce Department showed that consumers spent more in March on furniture, electronics and at restaurants. But they also paid more for gas. Retail sales increased 0.4 percent, the ninth consecutive monthly gain.

Factories boosted production across most of the Fed’s regions, and many manufacturers increased hiring, the Fed survey found.

Hiring also improved in most Fed regions. Factories and high-tech companies were among the sectors adding jobs in many parts of the country. All Fed regions—except for Kansas City and St. Louis—saw job gains in February, according to separate research conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. The Kansas City and St. Louis regions had slightly fewer jobs from January.

Businesses remain mostly upbeat about future sales prospects, the Fed reported. Still, some said the earthquake in Japan could disrupt sales and production.

Congratulations on your 2nd Anniversary!



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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nation

Mom drives van into Hudson, killing self, 3 kids

NEWBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—A woman upset with the father of her children packed her four youngsters into her minivan and drove into the frigid Hudson

River, killing everyone except her 10-year-old son, who managed to roll down a window of the sinking vehicle and swim to shore.

The dead youngsters ranged in

age from 11 months to 5 years.

A relative had called police Tuesday night to report a dispute at the home of Lashanda Armstrong, 25. Shortly afterward, she drove off a boat ramp several blocks away from her apartment in this struggling city 60 miles north of New York City.

Officials believe Lashaun Armstrong, 10, hit the button on a power window to escape from the driver's side as the minivan began to sink in the 45-degree water. Fire Chief Michael Vatter said the vehicle went under within two minutes.

"He got out of the car, got

up onto the boat ramp, turned around and it was gone," Vatter said.

A passer-by found a soaked and cold Lashaun Armstrong along the shore and took him to a firehouse for help. The boy was so distraught that he had difficulty talking but ultimately told firefighters what happened, the fire chief said. Rescuers went immediately to the river.

Divers searched for about an hour before finding the minivan submerged in 10 feet of water about 25 yards from the shore. They used a tow truck to pull it up the ramp. Everyone

inside was dead. Killed along with Lashanda Armstrong were Landon Pierre, 5, Lance Pierre, 2, and 11-month-old Laianna Pierre, police said. Lashaun is staying with his mother's sister Angela Gilliam and "doing fine," she said.

Armstrong appeared stressed-out when she picked up the children Tuesday at the Young and Unique Christian Development Child Care, said Shanie-sha Strange, supervisor in the infant room.

"The only thing she'd say was that she was so alone," Strange said. "She's a single parent. She

takes great care of her kids, goes to school and works. She really needed a helping hand."

The man police identified as the father of the three dead children, Jean Pierre, was questioned. Police would not give details. He apparently didn't live with the mother and children and could not immediately be located for comment.

Hetty Minatee, another teacher at the day care center, said Armstrong had enrolled the four children there in September. At first Jean Pierre would come in with Armstrong and sometimes would pick up the kids.

Video of TSA frisking 6-year-old sparks anger

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. (AP)—A Kentucky mother said Wednesday that federal airport screeners wouldn't tell her why they were frisking her 6-year-old daughter, whose treatment was captured on a YouTube video that has sparked outrage.

Selena Drexel said her family went through body scanners last month at the New Orleans airport, and her daughter Anna was selected for a pat-down. She asked why but wasn't given a reason.

Drexel told The Associated Press in an interview on Wednesday that her daughter began to cry after the search and said, "I'm sorry mommy. I don't know what I did wrong." Drexel said her daughter has since moved on and is showing no ill effects from the incident.

Drexel and her husband uploaded the video on YouTube, where it generated huge interest. Network morning shows picked up the story, and the pat-down was sharply criticized by con-

gressmen involved in national security issues.

The video shows a TSA agent patting down the child and explaining the procedure to the girl and her parents. The screener says that she will use the back of her hands on sensitive areas and will "put my hand in the waistband."

Drexel said she believes security measures at airports have gone "overboard." She said the family has already changed plans for their next trip and will drive a car.

"I want to feel safe when I'm flying, but I don't want to feel like my rights have been violated," she said.

The Transportation Security Administration said in a statement that the officer followed proper procedure but that the agency is reviewing its screening policies for "low-risk populations, such as young passengers." The agency is exploring ways to "move beyond a one-size fits all system."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ariz. sheriff office accused of misspending \$99M

PHOENIX (AP)—An examination in Arizona's Maricopa County has found that the sheriff's office, widely known for efforts against illegal immigrants, inappropriately spent \$99 million from two jail funds over the last eight years to pay for other law enforcement operations—including immigration patrols. The \$99 million figure released Wednesday is an update to an estimate made in September by budget officials who said the sheriff's office was believed to have used \$60 million and \$80 million over four or five years from a jail tax on other purposes.

Man charged with 4 cold-case killings in Calif.

SAN RAFAEL, Calif. (AP)—A strange coincidence? Or a glimpse into the twisted mind of a serial killer? Four California women who investigators believe were murdered by the same man all had alliterative names: Carmen Colon, Roxene Roggasch, Pamela Parsons and Tracy Tafoya. The suspect, a 77-year-old petty thief and freelance photographer, was arrested this week, and now detectives are looking

deeper into the deaths and whether the man had anything to do with New York's "Double Initial Murders"—the killings in the early 1970s of three girls, each with matching initials.

SD inmates accused of killing guard for uniform

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Two South Dakota inmates attacked a 63-year-old prison guard, wrapped his head in plastic shrink wrap and left him to die before using his uniform to sneak past security in an unsuccessful escape attempt, investigators said in court documents released Wednesday. Eric Robert and Rodney Berget, both 48, are charged with first-degree and felony murder. Both were ordered to be held without bond and to have no contact with each other. Public defenders assigned to the men had no immediate comment on the case, though Robert's attorney said Robert still was deciding whether he wanted to represent himself. Attorney General Marty Jackley said corrections officer Ronald Johnson was working alone Tuesday in a part of the Sioux Falls prison known as Pheasantland Industries, where inmates work on upholstery, signs, custom furniture and other projects.

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Asia

Amid losses, Japan determined to reopen schools

ISHINOMAKI, Japan (AP)—The tsunami killed 74 of the 108 students at Okawa Elementary School and all but one of the dozen teachers. The main building is ripped open, with trees jammed into second-floor classrooms, and the gym and playground have been reduced to muddled concrete foundations.

Classes start in a week.

All along Japan's battered northeastern coast, schools have been heavily damaged or converted to shelters, and families are without jobs, permanent homes or cars. But the country is determined to move ahead

with one of its rites of spring: the start of the school year in April, even as some parents and children grieve.

"I'm just not ready to think about school yet. They haven't even found my daughter," said Naomi Hiratsuka, who lost her child Koharu, a sixth grader at Okawa Elementary, and has a younger one entering first grade.

Officials say establishing routines is a crucial step in rebuilding communities and drawing residents out of crisis mode. The 34 surviving students of Okawa Elementary will begin classes on April 21 in four

rooms at a nearby school, staying together and treated as a separate school of their own. "We don't know yet if the school can be rebuilt, but we want to maintain continuity for the students," says Kato Shigemi, an education committee official in Ishinomaki, a devastated riverside community about 220 miles (350 kilometers) northeast of Tokyo.

The damage to the school system is immense. In Fukushima, Miyagi, and Iwate prefectures, which bore the brunt of the damage from the March 11 disaster, more than 1,000 stu-

dents and teachers are dead or missing, out of an overall death toll that could top 25,000. To help deal with the mental strain, psychologists and school counselors from around the country are being trained and sent to the hardest-hit areas.

Classrooms will be crowded. Nearly 200 schools require replacement or major renovations, and thousands more need repairs. Hundreds are being used as shelters, mainly their gyms and assembly halls.

School buildings survived in the coastal city of Natori, but some students had already been

picked up by their parents and were swept away, said Nobou Takizawa, an education official.

The city is arranging special buses to stop at shelters around

Natori, he said. Classes will start about 10 days later than normal, and many schools will share buildings, as well as handle students from the shelters.

PH protests China's South China Sea claim

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines filed a diplomatic protest to the United Nations against China, saying its broad claim to islands and adjacent waters in the South China Sea has no basis in international law.

Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia have filed similar protests over a map China submitted to the U.N. in 2009 that claims sovereignty over islands, adjacent waters, seabed and subsoil in the South China Sea. A copy of the Philippines' protest filed April 5 was seen Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The Philippines, China, Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam claim in whole or in part the Spratlys—a group of islands, reefs and atolls in the South China Sea believed to be sitting atop vast oil and gas reserves.

Indonesia is not a claimant but also protested last year.

In the note verbale submitted to the U.N. Division on Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, the Philippines said the Kalayaan Island Group in the Spratlys was an integral part of the Philippines, which has sovereignty and jurisdiction over its geo-

logical features.

It said the Philippines also has sovereignty and jurisdiction over waters around or adjacent to each geological feature in the Kalayaan Island Group under the international law principle that land dominates the sea, as provided under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea or UNCLOS.

Since waters adjacent to the geological features in the Kalayaan Island Group are definite and subject to legal and technical measurement, China's claims "on the relevant waters as well as the seabed and subsoil" outside of the geological features "have no basis under international law, specifically UNCLOS," the Philippines said.

The protest came after a Philippine Department of Energy ship searching for oil complained last month that it was harassed by two Chinese patrol boats in the Reed Bank near the Spratlys. The Philippine military deployed two warplanes and the Chinese vessel later left without confrontation, officials said.

China asserted that the area is within the adjacent waters of the Spratlys, which it claims and calls "Nansha islands."

ASIAN BRIEFS

Afghan police: Suicide bomber kills 10

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A suicide bomber detonated his vest full of explosives in northeastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing 10 people, including five schoolboys and an influential tribal elder and former military commander who supported the Afghan government. The target of the midday bombing in Kunar province was Malik Zareen, a leader of Afghan forces during the Soviet occupation in the 1980s, a provincial police chief said. The police chief, Khalilullah Ziayi, said seven others were also wounded in the blast in the province's Asmar district. "Unfortunately, the suicide attacker targeted a local council meeting of the tribal elders," he said.

Chemical plant blast kills at least 9 in China

BEIJING (AP)—A Chinese state news agency says an explosion at a chemical plant in the northeast of the country has killed at least nine workers. The official Xinhua News Agency said Thursday that the cause of the explosion in Daqing in Heilongjiang province was not immediately known. Five other people escaped the blast. Xinhua says the Wednesday night blast caused a fire in a three-story building belonging to the Fuxing Chemical Plant. Industrial accidents are common in China due to lax regulations and safety controls.

Bangladeshi survives 9 days shipped in container

SINGAPORE (AP)—A report says a Bangladeshi port worker survived nine days trapped without food or water in a cargo container shipped to Singapore. Another man trapped with him died. The New Paper of Singapore reported Wednesday that 30-year-old Din Islam said he became trapped while resting in the container at Bangladesh's Chittagong port on April 1. Police said Din and the other man's body were discovered Sunday by a worker at Pasir Panjang Terminal who heard loud banging in the container. Police didn't elaborate on how long the men might have been there.

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World

Protesters see victory as Egypt's Mubarak detained

CAIRO (AP)—Ousted President Hosni Mubarak and his two sons were detained Wednesday for investigation of corruption, abuse of power and killings of protesters, bringing cheers of victory from activists who hoped it marked a turning point in Egypt's turbulent transition to democracy.

The 82-year-old Mubarak was under detention in a hospital, a step prosecutors depicted as a precaution to monitor his health while under questioning.

His sons Gamal, once seen as Mubarak's successor, and Alaa, a wealthy businessman, were jailed in Cairo's Torah prison, where a string of former top regime figures—including Mubarak's prime minister, ruling party chief and chief of staff—are already languishing, facing similar corruption investigations.

The detention of the man who ruled Egypt unquestioned for 29 years set a new landmark in the already unprecedented wave of upheaval shaking the Middle East. It was arguably the first time an authoritarian leader in the Arab world has been brought to justice by his own people, given that Saddam Hussein was toppled and later captured by American troops, who handed him over for trial and execution by Iraq's new Shiite rulers.

Corruption had been rife under Mubarak's regime. In a country where 40 percent of the population lives on \$2 a day or less, many resented the business tycoon-politicians elevated to

power by Gamal Mubarak and accused of looting the nation's coffers to enrich themselves.

As Mubarak's sons were driven away after being taken into custody in the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, where the family has been living since Mubarak's fall, protesters pelted the police van with water bottles, stones and their flip-flops in a sign of contempt.

The detention was a significant victory for Egypt's protest movement, which has been in an increasingly tense tug-of-war with the country's new military rulers over the shape of the post-Mubarak future.

Protesters have been pushing hard for the apparently reluctant military to prosecute Mubarak. Tens of thousands held the biggest rally in weeks last Friday in Cairo's central Tahrir Square to demand his arrest, and some protesters accused the military of protecting the former president.

Activists were now watching whether the military leadership is willing to definitively bury the remnants of Mubarak's authoritarian rule and open up a transition many accuse it of monopolizing.

"The generals don't know how to absorb that there are two forces," columnist and activist Wael Abdel-Fattah said, referring to the military and the "revolution" protesters. "They try to say you can rest now, we will do everything. They don't want to admit that there is another force that also dictates its will."

NATO airstrikes hit Gadhafi targets

AJDABIYA, Libya (AP)—NATO launched new airstrikes Wednesday on targets held by Moammar Gadhafi as rebel leaders urged a stronger air campaign that will allow them to advance on Gadhafi's territory.

Gadhafi's government, meanwhile, denounced proposals by rebel leaders that they be given some of the regime's assets that have been frozen as part of international sanctions. "That is financial

piracy," Finance Minister Abdulhafid Zlitni said of such a transfer. In all, about \$120 billion in Libyan assets have been frozen, he told a news conference.

Detailing Wednesday's bombings, a NATO official confirmed a strike on at least one ammunition bunker outside the Libyan capital, Tripoli. He asked that his name not be used because the military alliance was not yet releasing

the information publicly.

Libya's official JANA news agency reported airstrikes Wednesday in three other places: Misrata, Libya's third-largest city; Sirte, a Gadhafi stronghold and home to the Libyan leader's tribe; and Aziziyah, about 22 miles (35 kilometers) south of Tripoli. Jana said the strike in Misrata was in an area "populated with residents."

But Mohammed Abdul-

lah, a Misrata activist and a professor, said residents had mostly evacuated that part of Misrata several weeks ago after Gadhafi troops stormed it.

"Gadhafi troops are misleading the NATO," he said. "The Gadhafi forces turn the shops into weapon caches and then claim that the areas are residential."

Libyan rebels have been pleading for more NATO airstrikes as top Western and Arab envoys gather in Qatar's capital to discuss ways to end the Libyan crisis.

WORLD BRIEFS

Syria uprising broadens as women, students protest

BEIRUT (AP)—Women, children and students took to the streets in Syria on Wednesday, lending their voices to a month-long uprising that President Bashar Assad insists is the work of a foreign conspiracy. The protest movement is posing an increasing threat to Assad's iron rule as it attracts an ever-wider following, with tens of thousands of people demanding political freedoms and an end to the decades-old emergency laws that extend state authority into nearly all aspects of Syrians' lives. "We will not be humiliated!" shouted some 2,000 women and children who blocked a main coastal road in northeastern Syria, where security forces and pro-government gunmen have cracked down on dissent in recent days. The protesters were demanding the release of hundreds of men who have been rounded up in the villages of Bayda and Beit Jnad.

Number of bodies found in Mexico state rises to 122

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexi-

can investigators found a clandestine grave with six bodies in Tamaulipas state, bringing to 122 the number of bodies found in pits in a region near the U.S. border that is wracked by battling drug cartels, authorities said Wednesday. Tamaulipas state Interior Secretary Morelos Canseco said investigators are searching for more bodies at the pit found late Tuesday. The bodies were taken to a morgue in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas.

Belarus: 3 suspects confess in Minsk subway attack

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—Three suspects have confessed to being involved in the Minsk subway bombing, police said Wednesday, and Belarusian authorities rounded up dissidents across the country after the president declared that they might know who "ordered the attack." The head of the KGB, Belarus' security service, said a man in his mid-20s was arrested and confessed to carrying out the bombing that killed 12 people and wounded over 200 Monday at the main subway station in Minsk, the capital.


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Off The Wall

Iceland's penis museum finally gets human specimen

LONDON (AP)—In life, Pall Arason sought attention. In death, he is getting it: The 95-year-old Iclander's pickled penis will be the main attraction in one of his country's most bizarre museums.

Sigurdur Hjartarson, who runs the Phallogological Museum in the tiny Icelandic fishing town of Husavik, said Arason's organ will help round out the unusual institution's extensive collection of phalluses from whales, seals, bears and other mammals.

Several people had pledged their penises over the years—including an American, a Briton, and a German—but Arason's was the first to be successfully donated, Hjartarson said.

"I have just been waiting for

this guy for 15 years," he told The Associated Press in a brief telephone interview.

Hjartarson's museum started in Reykjavik but has since moved to Husavik, a small community better known for its whale watching. The Phallogological Museum is an important part of the region's tourist industry, bringing in thousands of visitors every summer.

Highlights of the museum's collection include a 170-centimeter (67-inch) sperm whale penis preserved in formaldehyde, lampshades made from bull testicles and what the museum described as an "unusually big" penis bone from a Canadian walrus.

Hjartarson, 69, said his interest in what he calls "phallogology" began when, as a youngster in rural Iceland, he was given a whip made from a bull's penis to help him herd cattle. Later, when he worked at a school near a whaling sta-

tion, colleagues brought him whale penises as gifts.

"That was how it started. I opened this museum 15 years ago with 62 specimens," he said. Now, with the addition of Arason's organ, he has 276, many suspended in formalde-

hyde or dried and mounted on the walls.

Photos posted to the museum's website show small army of ghostly, whitish penises stuffed into jars, tall glass cylinders and large aquariums. There are sculptures, molds and other

penis-related craft items. Outside, the museum has a large tree trunk carved into the shape of an erect phallus.

Most items are donations from friends and well-wishers, people listed on the museum's website as "honorary members."

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Pa. students: Ethics seminar had exotic dancers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Students at La Salle University in Philadelphia say exotic dancers were part of a professor's extra-credit symposium on business ethics. Officials at the private Roman Catholic school say they are investigating the March 21 seminar, which ended abruptly after the business school's dean showed up. Students say the dancers kept their clothes on. Sophomore Brad Bernardino tells WPVI-TV that one dancer gave a lap dance to assistant management professor Jack Rappaport. Rappaport did not respond to an emailed request for comment. La Salle spokesman Joseph Donovan would not comment on Rappaport's status while the investigation continues. Students say they have a new teacher. The seminar was held at

a satellite campus about 10 miles from La Salle's main campus.

Ore. legislative prank becomes Internet sensation

SALEM, Ore. (AP)—Who says government has to be boring? A dozen state lawmakers in Oregon are convinced it doesn't need to be. They slipped the lyrics to Rick Astley's 1987 hit "Never Gonna Give You Up" into their speeches on the House floor last year. And they did it right under the noses of colleagues, journalists, lobbyists, staff and the public. The video was released on April Fool's Day and went viral this week, attracting more than 780,000 views and comments from fans cheering the politicians eager to have a little fun while doing the people's business. The mastermind is Rep. Jefferson Smith, a 37-year old Portland Democrat who says he wants to drive people to politics

instead of driving them away with partisan venom.

Cooking oil dump gives RI city eau de french fries

CRANSTON, R.I. (AP)—Some 30 gallons of used cooking oil has been spilled over several streets in a Rhode Island city, leaving behind the smell of french fries. Cranston Deputy Fire Chief Keith Newman told WJAR-TV that the soybean oil was kept in 5-gallon containers that apparently fell off a truck Monday. Firefighters found the containers in four spots around Cranston. The cooking oil was spilled along an entire block of one street, a mess left for environmental officials to clean up. Newman told The Associated Press that his clothes smelled like french fries after he got back to the fire station. The fire department is searching for the driver

who made the mess.

Police: Duo stole tools, tried to sell to victim

YORK, Pa. (AP)—Police say two people swiped tools from a central Pennsylvania home then unwittingly tried to sell them back to their owner at his place of employment. West York Police say the victim was approached by two people at a service center March 24 trying to sell him some tools. The victim thought the toolbox looked familiar and went home to find he'd been robbed. Police tell The York Dispatch they soon arrested 34-year-old Cody Lee Littrell, of Hanover, and 32-year-old Rebecca Erinn Dice, of Dillsburg. Both face charges including theft and receiving stolen property. Littrell is free on bail. A phone number for him could not immediately be located Tuesday. Dice remains behind bars.

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NMHC IFB 2011-006

**"REHABILITATION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX
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(Amendment #01 is to (1) amend mandatory pre-bid conference from 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 18, 2011 at the proposed project site in Dandan, Saipan to 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at the proposed project site at Susupe Sports Gymnasium Complex Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan; and, (2) amend the bid submission date on April 25, 2011 - 10:00 a.m. to April 21, 2011 - 10:00 a.m.)

Proposal packets will be available on April 12, 2011, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2011, at the proposed project site at the Susupe Sports Gymnasium Complex - Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health

CNMI WIC
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Tinian Vendors only. Applications may be picked up at the CNMI WIC Administrative Building located in Navy Hill, Saipan, Building No. N-25 or may be downloaded online by visiting our website at www.cnmiwic.org. The Vendor Selection Criteria is attached to the application and may also be viewed on the website.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., May 06, 2011. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications and requirements are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4067, by email at fabianu@cnmiwic.org or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department
of Public Health

Carmen C. Cabrera
CNMI WIC Program,
Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-11-028
SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced Independent Power Producers (IPP), to supply electrical energy generated from commercially proven Solar Photovoltaic System (SPS) for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

CUC seeks responses from qualified developers from which the CUC intends to select one, or more, respondent(s) to negotiate Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) and install generation SPS facilities that best fit the CUC's requirements.

The Scope of Services requested in the Request for Proposal shall include, but not be limited to, securing sites, all permits and approvals from governing agencies, and providing all labor, services and equipment necessary to design, procure, install, construct, test, commission, monitor, operate, and maintain fully operational SPS Generating Facilities. Selected IPP(s) will be responsible for operating and maintaining all facets of the Generating Facility (ies) and for generating the required output as described in the Request for Proposal.

The Scope-of-Services will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offeror, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 AM to 4:00 PM), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held on **May 16, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**, at CUC Power Plant No. 1 Administration Building, Lower Base Industrial Park, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

One (1) original and Six (6) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-RFP-11-028 "Solar Photovoltaic Generation"**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, no later than **September 29, 2011 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. A copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent by email to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net or alternately include a CD with each copy of the submission. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on **June 14, 2011** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email address msablan@cucgov.net; Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email address mika_muna@cucgov.net; and Mr. Wallon Young, Deputy Director, Power Generation/Distribution, via address email wallon59@yahoo.com. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

Science & Technology

Edit your photos on the go on a bigger screen

By REID KANALEY
THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

There are plenty of applications that exist just because they can and not because they serve a useful purpose. Any of the buzzer, bleeper and bodily-noisemaker apps included in the entertaining 99-cent Appzilla from Fossil Software LLC fill that bill.

And that was my first reaction to Camera for iPad, an app from Headlight Software Inc. that lets the iPad, which until now hasn't been available with a built-in camera, function as a wireless photo receiver when paired with your nearby iPhone, and edit the pictures right away on the bigger iPad display.

But a few minutes with the app reveals some redeeming value.

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

The coding that goes atop this column is somewhat arcane and a bit of a pain to retype every time I submit a column to the McClatchy-Tribune server. I could create a template, of course, but there's a better way, and it's called RoboType, a shorthand program for Windows PCs that does the work for me. It installs

What you do is install Camera for iPad on both devices (you need to purchase it only once, for 99 cents). The app turns on the iPhone camera and transmits the viewfinder image live—using a Wi-Fi or Bluetooth connection—to the iPad screen.

To what end? Now you can see a much larger image of the camera frame and take photos from either the iPad or iPhone.

Of course, the new iPad 2 has two of its own cameras, rendering this app unnecessary going forward. But for everyone with a first-generation iPad— and access to an iPhone—this is a workable arrangement.

Here are three other useful camera apps for iPhone:

- The updated Camera+ from Inventive Inc., is a 99-cent app

that adds to the iPhone's basic photographic repertoire by allowing the onboard camera to zoom, take bursts of photos when you keep a finger on the exposure button, and let the photographer set a timer. It has a stabilizer for shaky hands, and has separate finger-tap tools for focus and exposure settings within the picture frame.

- Filterstorm, by developer Tai Shimizu, is a \$3.99 camera-editing app first built for the iPad but available for iPhone and iPod touch as well. It provides a selection of Photoshop-like editing functions for the touch screen, such as vignetting, toning, and combining multiple exposures. But it may be most notable for its ability to upload high-resolution photos, including to FTP

sites, making it useful for serious photographers who want to do more than post snaps to Facebook and Twitter.

- Camera Plus Pro's name sounds a lot like Camera+, above, but it's from a different software maker, Global Delight Technologies. Notable features of Camera Plus Pro include the app's ability to shoot video and send a roll of shots via Wi-Fi to a nearby laptop or PC—where, as with Camera for iPad, the bigger screen makes your photo editing less tedious. Another thing Camera Plus Pro does with ease is search the Web for images, via an in-app Bing search function. You can pick and download results, and edit as you please. Can anybody say copyright issues?

Let a robot do your typing

easily, has a good help file and quick learning curve, and it's fairly intuitive after that.

You first give the words, html code or other boilerplate type an abbreviation. I assigned "tp" for the verbiage at the top of this column. A window pops up, and I typed in or paste the type I want to appear. I created a new document in Microsoft Word, type tp,

hit the space bar, and the words appear as if I had just typed them. There's even a spell checker to make sure the type you insert is correct the first time.

You can set up RoboType to prompt you after you type in an abbreviation or you can simply get on with it. If you want to call up another program such as wordpad, you would type in

the name of the program, hit the space bar, and it opens. You probably wouldn't want to use it for a program such as Paint, since that's a word you might use in the course of typing your document. I'd assign "mspaint" as the abbreviation. Type in "calc," though, and your Windows calculator pops up. (The word "calc" and any other abbreviation you use disappear after you hit the space bar.)

TECH BYTES

Amazon to sell cheaper Kindle with on-screen ads

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Amazon.com Inc. is dropping the price on its Kindle e-reader, but the change comes with a trade-off: On-screen ads. The online retailer was set to announce Tuesday that the new Kindle with Special Offers will cost \$114—\$25 less than the currently lowest-priced Kindle—and include advertisements on the bottom of the device's home page and on its screen savers. Seattle-based Amazon will start shipping the newest Kindle on May 3, and it will also be sold in Target and Best Buy stores on that date.

Cisco plans to shut its Flip camcorder business

NEW YORK (AP)—Cisco Systems Inc., one of the titans of the technology industry, on Tuesday said it is killing the Flip Video, the most popular video camera in the U.S., just two years after it bought the startup that created it. It appears to be a case of a big company proving a poor custodian of a small one, even one that makes a hit product. It was inexpensive, pocketable and very easy to use, from shooting to editing and online sharing. These features have been copied by many other manufacturers, but the Flip Video still outsells them.

iPads take a place next to crayons in kindergarten

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Kindergarten classes are supplementing crayons, finger paints and flashcards with iPads, a development that excites supporters but that detractors worry is wasted on pupils too young to appreciate the expense. Next fall, nearly 300 kindergartners in the central Maine city of Auburn will become the latest batch of youngsters around the country to get iPad2 touchpad tablets to learn the basics about ABCs, 1-2-3s, drawing and even music. Maine was the first state to equip students statewide with computers when it distributed Apple laptops to all seventh- and eighth-graders in 2002 and 2003.

In Celebration of Her New Life

Matilde Libwailugh Matagolai Kaipat

(Lovingly Known as "Nang")
June 20, 1934 - April 02, 2011

Was called home by our heavenly Father at the age of 76.

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:
Husband: The Honorable Francisco Borja Kaipat
Son: Saturnino Matagolai Kaipat
Sister: Bernadita Matagolai Igisomar
Mother: Dolores Leiraghmal Matagolai Saures
Father: Francisco Iguel Repeki
Mother-In-Law: Joaquina Dela Cruz Borja Kaipat
Father-In-Law: Sotero Malus Kaipat
Brothers-In-Law/Sisters-In-Law: Manuel B./Ana Satur Kaipat; Serafin B./Juliana Somol Kaipat; Mariano B./Guadalupe Litulumar Kaipat; Juan B./Consolacion Romolor Kaipat; Isaac B. Kaipat; Victoria B. Kaipat/Jose Lisua Taitano; Samuel Lisua Igisomar; Manuel Cruz Angui
Godmother: Nieves Mangabau

She will be greatly missed. Her memories will live on forever in the hearts and minds of her children and their spouses, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Children and Spouses:
Cris M. & Maggie Delos Reyes Kaipat (Shawn DLR. And Tatiana DLR. Kaipat/Roy Igisomar Tarope [Tilia Kanemoto (Jolivalynn Saures)]; Jolina Kanemoto; Luvilina George)
Dora M. Kaipat & Bill Sablan Reyes (Del R./Lee Taitano Lieto [Brandon, Bradley, Wilfred, Weslee, Delton, Dylan]; Francella K. Reyes [Natasha Marie R. White] and Lavina Marie K. Reyes)
Ando M. Kaipat
†**Saturnino M.**/Maria Santos Kaipat (Kayla S. Kaipat/Dennis D. Cabrera [Dennis Jr., Maida]; Byron S. Kaipat/Mona Palacios Camacho [Keanny]; Kyle S. Kaipat/Daisy Lizama Cabrera [Mardina, Aiden Saturnino]; Saturnino Jr. and Marvin
Cinta M. Kaipat
Vio M. Kaipat (Leilugh Brandy Kaipat)
Gus M. Kaipat
Cil K./Dave Magofna Selepeo
Ken "Bud" M./Maria Santos Kaipat (Tyler James; Dustin Jacob and Kaydie Lian)
Frances M. Kaipat (Austin John K. Lizama; Franklin K. Lizama; Josiah K. Lizama and Juan Celis Jr. Lizama)

Sister & Brothers: Rufina Saures Angui; Gabriel Matagolai Saures and Joaquin Teregeyo Repeki
Sisters-In-Law: Teresita Wabol Kaipat and Patricia Repeki
Reared Children: **Guillermo M.**/Ignacia "Ghaling" Taisacan Saures (Benedict T. Saures, William M. & Anna Mettao Saures; Anning Moteisou/John Mettao, Doring Moteisou & Jason Teregeyo); **Jose M.**/Lek Kaipat; **Elvaristo M.**/Lillyjean S. Igisomar (Shirley, George, Tracy, Eric, Evajeon and Sammy); **Dolores Saures** & Jacob T. Lizama (Josephine)

She is additionally survived by numerous aunts, uncles, niece, nephews, cousins, godchildren and relatives.

Rosary is being said nightly at 7:30PM at her residence in Koblerville. Her remains will be escorted from the CHC Morgue on Friday, April 15, 2011, at 3:00PM to her home in Koblerville, followed by Responso Service.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 10:00AM, followed by Interment Services at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You.

From the Children and Family

In Celebration of Her New Life

†Dolores Cepeda Benavente Salas

Born: June 22, 1943 • Died: April 11, 2011

In her new life, she now joins her:
Husband: †Deacon Modesto Arriola Salas
Parents: †Juan Villagomez Benavente, †Rita Cepeda Benavente
Parents In Law: †Enrique Fausto Salas, †Magdalena Arriola Salas
Siblings: †Silveria B. Mendiola, †Luis C. Benavente
In Laws: †Juana Arriola Salas, †Rosalia Salas/†Pedro DLG. Jesus, †Jose DLG. Sablan, †Allen J. Cameron

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Children & Families:

- **Mae Benavente Salas** (Joaquin S. Reyes, Jr., Jackary Reyes, D'Andra Deleon Guerrero)
- **John Henry Benavente & Fae Gutierrez Salas** (John Jr./Elvielynn (Jaydiss Trinity), Tiajavika)
- **Gerard Benavente & Margarita Tudela Salas** (Hiroki, Hiroyuki, Hiroaki)
- **Linoa Maui Benavente**

Siblings & In Laws:
Jacinto B. Mendiola, Maria Benavente Sablan, Trinidad Benavente Cameron, Fernando & Lorna Benavente, Ignacio & Evelyn S. Benavente, Katherine S. Benavente, Teresita B. & Jesus Aldan, Roman & Andrea A. Benavente, Natalia Maui

Care taker: Vickie Faldas

She is additionally survived by numerous goddaughters, godsons, nieces and nephews.

Daily Mass is being offered at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. and the Holy Rosary will be at 7:00 p.m. in the evening.

On Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 7:30 a.m., our beloved's remains will be escorted from the Borja's Funeral Home to Mount Carmel Cathedral Church for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated

Children and Family

Life & Style

Gwyneth Paltrow turns love of food into a book

NEW YORK (AP)—Surely Gwyneth Paltrow can't do everything well: She's yet to enter the field of medicine or play professional sports, for example.

But the list of things the Oscar-winning actress, mother, lifestyle guru, and

newly minted singer can't do seems to be dwindling. At a recent dinner party, she proved herself a master at yet another role—domestic goddess. "I am just exploding with joy for her because this is something that gives her tremendous satisfaction," said Paltrow's mother, actress Blythe Danner, as she watched her daughter move about in an apron, playing host to a crowd that included A-list

celebrity friends like Jay-Z, Jerry Seinfeld, Cameron Diaz and beau Alex Rodriguez, Martha Stewart and Paltrow's husband, Chris Martin of Coldplay.

It was a dinner party Monday in celebration of her new cookbook, "My Father's Daughter," sponsored by One Kings Lane. The book is filled with family recipes and pays tribute to Paltrow's dad Bruce, who passed away in



your own children?

Paltrow: I think the importance of eating together as a family and making homemade food that is nourishing and good for you. It is such a nice time because my dad used to really talk to us when we ate dinner and see what we thought about things and now I use that opportunity to do the same thing with my kids as well.

AP: This has been a transformative year for you—singing on big platforms such as the Grammys and the Oscars, and now releasing this cookbook. Is it just about acting anymore?

Paltrow: It has been a surprise for me as well. I have just had a great time. I feel very lucky that I am being able to try these other things. The cookbook isn't a career change for me. I am just a working mom and this is how I do it, so I made the collection of recipes for anyone who was interested to see just me as one example of a working mother kind of a thing.

AP: People see you as this celebrity, but do you really cook?

Paltrow: I do. Every day. I think it is really important to make food yourself. I think it is so engrained. I don't really think about it. I will just get a bunch of ingredients and cook whatever is around. I am kind of always on the fly making stuff. I think it is such a part of who I am that I don't even think about it now.

AP: You have your own website and now there are reports that you are coming out with your own magazine. Is this true?

Paltrow: It is not true at all.

Nobel literature juror in RI denies prize biases

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The Swedish panel that awards the Nobel Prize for Literature isn't biased toward European writers or against American writers, a member of the panel said Wednesday.

Nationality isn't an important factor in selecting the prize winner, Swedish Academy member and acclaimed poet Kjell Espmark told The Associated Press.

Other members of the Swedish Academy have suggested both biases exist.

In 2008, the committee's then-permanent secretary, Horace Engdahl, said European writers tend to beat out American writers because American literature is overly insular. In 2009, his successor, Peter Englund, worried the prize was too "Eurocentric."

The list of the past 20 laureates includes one American—novelist Toni Morrison, in 1993—and 11 European writers, including German novelist Gunter Grass and British playwright Harold Pinter. Some of the others se-

lected during that time are not from Europe but have spent much of their writing careers there.

The literature prize election is by secret ballot among the 18 members of the Swedish Academy. Espmark has been a member of the Academy since 1981.

Engdahl sparked an uproar in 2008 when he declared in an interview with the AP that Europeans tend to win because they deserve to win, particularly compared with Americans, whom he dismissed as "too sensitive to trends in their own mass culture."

Engdahl's words were taken out of context, Espmark said Wednesday.

"That interview was summed up in such a way that could make you think that American writers were out of the question because they were too insular and so on. That's just nonsense," he said. "What he talked about actually is that very little translated literature is read in America."

Very few foreign-language books make it into English, especially in

the U.S. market, and even fewer reach a wide audience, as Espmark pointed out.

"It's just a matter of a low percentage of translation that makes American audiences rather unaware of what happens in other countries," he said.

He also said he disagreed with Englund when he revealed in 2009 that he thought it was a problem that members of the Swedish Academy tend to "relate more easily to literature written in Europe and in the European tradition."

"The nation is not important, and balance (of laureates' homelands) is not interesting," Espmark said, noting that the panel tries to be impartial and make selections based purely on literary criteria.

Espmark, who is a professor emeritus of literary history at Stockholm University, was in Rhode Island as part of a tour to promote his latest collection of poetry, "Lend Me Your Voice." He gave a lecture at Providence College and read from the poetry collection; he spoke to the AP afterward.

HOLLYWOOD NOTEBOOK

By RICK BENTLEY
MCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The announcement that British actor Henry Cavill will play Superman in the next film based on the comic book character caught me off guard.

Cavill's certainly a good actor, as he's shown in "The Tudors." But playing Superman takes more: a strong personality to make a character who wears tights and a cape come across as real.

I got the chance to talk with Cavill at WonderCon, the comic book and pop culture convention in San Francisco. He was there promoting his film "The Immortals," in which he plays Greek legend Theseus. After a few moments talking with Cavill, it's obvious he has the charm and confidence to wear the cape.

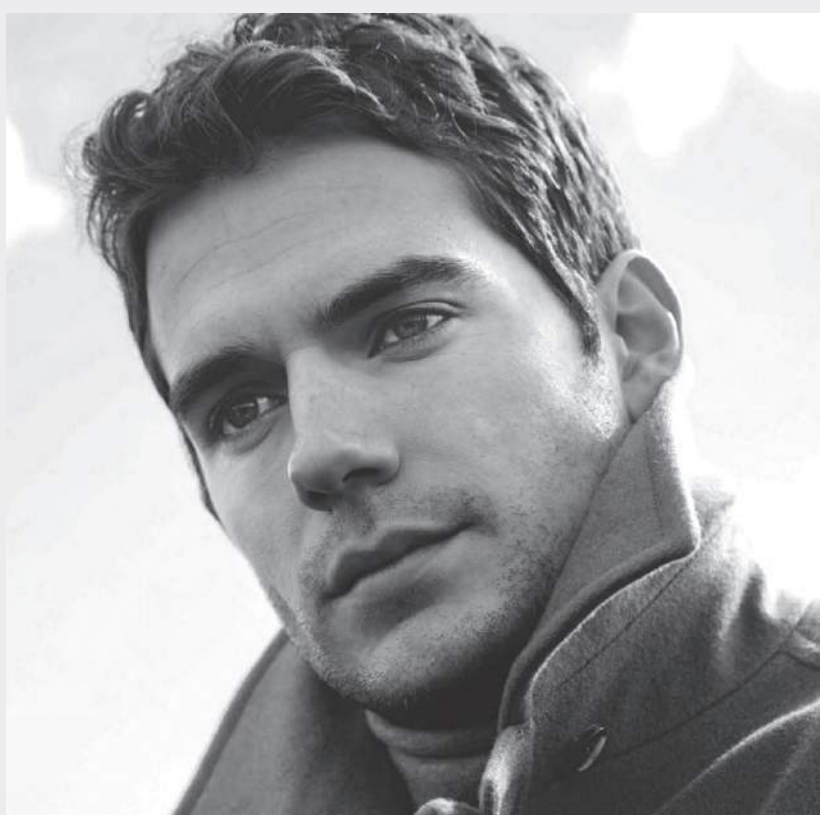
He says it's only coincidence that his last two major acting jobs had him playing a costumed character and a hero.

"It's not like I said if I do this film or that one, that it would lead to playing Superman," Cavill says.

He does see a link between mythology and comic books, as both have been a way to create heroes when times are tough.

Cavill is the first Brit to take on the role, but he says when it comes to Superman, nationality doesn't matter.

"Superman's such a universal icon," Cavill says. "Yes, he was raised in America as a character, but I don't think the Brits see him any differently. They just see him as the coolest, biggest and best



British actor Henry Cavill will play Superman in the next film based on the comic book character.

superhero out there."

As for whether Superman has been his favorite superhero over the years, Cavill quickly says yes. He smiles and adds, "I hardly am going to say otherwise, anyway."

■ ■ ■ ■

Blake Lively, star of the CW Network series "Gossip Girl," is not only a film and TV star. She's also the darling of the

fashion world. Behind all that glitz and glitter is a young woman who gets excited about dolls and wizards.

Lively arrived for an interview at WonderCon to talk about her role as Carol Ferris in the new "Green Lantern" movie. She's almost giddy over how there's been a Barbie doll created based on the character, who's the love interest of the superhero.

"That is soooooo cool," Lively says. Pointing at the doll's face, she adds, "Look. It even has the same mole as I have. This is so wild. I feel like I have to go home and buy Barbie's Magical Dream House and play with myself."

She pauses and says, "That didn't sound right."

It's hard to blame her for being enthusiastic about her role in the summer film. Being cast in a comic-book movie—especially one where she gets to play a strong female character—is a great career move. The fact it comes with Barbie is a bonus.

Lively wasn't familiar with the "Green Lantern" comics before being cast. She's a bigger fan of a different literature series connected to another big summer movie. Lively's such a huge "Harry Potter" fans, she jokes that there doesn't seem a reason to go on now that the books are done.

A Barbie doll made in her image helps.

■ ■ ■ ■

I thought I'd stumbled on a real scoop while talking with Odette Annable at WonderCon about her new Fox series "Breaking In." The last time we spoke, for the movie "You Again," Annable was being very secretive about her wedding plans to Dave Annable in October.

"And now I am a married woman," says Annable, pointing to a ring that's so big it should be in orbit around a planet.

She's all smiles as she discusses how there was so much pressure to make sure everything went right. All of the time and

effort was worth it because the wedding went off without a hitch.

The wedding might have been TOO perfect.

"Now that it's over, I'm ready to do it all again," Annable says.

Before I can ask whether this means a change in her current marital status, Annable adds she would go through the wedding again as long as it was with the same man.

The luck she's found with love in life isn't reflected in her "Breaking In" character. Annable plays a woman who's not so smart with her choices in men. At least the character is flawless when it comes to picking locks and cracking safes.

■ ■ ■ ■

Damon Wayans Jr., star of the new ABC comedy "Happy Endings," went to his famous dad for advice about becoming an actor.

"I wanted to kind of know what he knew and he told me a lot of stuff. He told me to have fun. He didn't really give me any rules to go by, but he was definitely supportive," Wayans says.

Even if his dad hadn't given him any acting tips, he had plenty of other options. It seems like there's about 1,000 Wayans working in show business.

"We're a very close-knit family, even the extended," Wayans Jr. says. "We all get together for anything, basketball games or whatever. We just all meet up and count each other, pretty much. See what new one's there."

Rick Bentley: rbentley@fresnobee.com.

Israeli PM's meeting with Bieber called off

JERUSALEM (AP)—Justin Bieber's trip to Israel is off to a rocky start—tentative plans to meet the prime minister have fallen through under contentious circumstances, and the teen heartthrob says he has holed himself up in his hotel to escape the country's notoriously aggressive paparazzi.

Bieber, adored by young fans worldwide for hits like "Baby," arrived in Israel on Monday and was planning to spend the week sightseeing ahead of an outdoor concert in Tel Aviv on Thursday.

The 17-year-old Canadian artist has set off a wave of excitement, with young females camped outside his hotel and photographers aggressively following him at every stop.

Even 61-year-old Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears to have been caught up in the hype. Officials in his office said the Israeli leader had hoped to meet the singer, but hinted that Mideast politics had scuttled the visit.

A spokesman for Netanyahu said Bieber's representatives had initiated the meeting, and



In this Aug. 31, 2010 file photo Singer Justin Bieber performs at Madison Square Garden.

the prime minister thought it would be a good idea. He said Netanyahu hoped to bring children from Israel's embattled south, which has absorbed dozens of Palestinian rocket attacks in recent weeks, and give them a "happy experience."

"Unfortunately it has not proved feasible," said the official, who requested anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. He refused to elaborate, but Israel's Channel 2 TV said Bieber had told Netanyahu's office he did not want to make the visit political.

The Yediot Ahronot tabloid headlined its coverage "Bibi vs. Bieber," using the prime minister's nickname. "Furious Bieber," wrote the Maariv daily.

Ronit Arbel, an Israeli spokeswoman for Bieber, denied the reports. She said there

were never any plans—or even discussions—about a meeting with the prime minister.

But in a Twitter post—one of many offered by the singer in recent days—Bieber acknowledged the difficulties of Israeli photographers and the country's diplomatic minefield.

"I want to see this country and all the places I've dreamed of and whether it's the paps or being pulled into politics it's been frustrating," he said.

Israeli leaders have an informal tradition of meeting with visiting celebrities. Netanyahu hosted Madonna for a traditional Friday night Sabbath dinner two years ago. More recently, he met the Chilean miners who were rescued after two months underground when they visited the Holy Land earlier this year.

Celebrities ranging from Elton John to Sarah Palin to Leonardo DiCaprio have also had a long history of trouble with Israeli paparazzi.

A practicing Christian, Bieber complained on his Twitter page that paparazzi were pursuing him everywhere, even at sensitive holy sites.

"You would think paparazzi would have some respect in holy places. All I wanted was the chance to walk where Jesus did here in Israel," he wrote, misspelling the name of the country and failing to capitalize Jesus' name.

Israeli media showed footage of what it said was the young star trying to escape photographers on a scooter. One of them later lodged a complaint with police saying Bieber had tried to run him over, media reported.

Couric returns to 'Today' for interview with Lauer

NEW YORK (AP)—Katie Couric returned to the "Today" show Wednesday for an on-air reunion with Matt Lauer, but didn't give him an exclusive about her future.

"I'll call you," she said with a wide smile, her hand mimicking a telephone. The current "CBS Evening News" anchor, whose contract expires in June, said she expected to make a decision about her future in a few weeks.

It was her second time back on the morning show where she was host from 1991 to 2006 (the other was to promote an anti-cancer initiative). She's currently on a tour touting her new book, "The Best Advice I Ever Got," a collection of essays with words of wisdom for young people.

She insisted she hadn't made a decision on what to do next, after Lauer suggested that she knew but just hasn't told anyone yet.

Several companies are seeking to have her host a daytime talk show, including both CBS and NBC. That's considered an area of opportunity with the imminent end of daytime leader Oprah Winfrey's show.

Asked by Lauer what appealed to her about that idea, Couric mentioned the creative freedom to choose subjects and have intelligent discussions about them. Medical, health, social issues and politics were subject areas she said she'd like to address.

"It might be nice to have a little more wiggle room for me to show a little more personali-

ty," said Couric, who has sought other avenues of expression beyond the tightly-formatted, half-hour evening newscast.

Left unspoken on the air were a handful of published reports speculating she could team up again with Lauer on a talk show when his "Today" contract ends at the end of 2012. Such an idea is considered highly unlikely.

Even though she and Lauer worked side-by-side as anchors from 1997 to 2006, Couric showed loyalty to her current employer: she talked about her book Tuesday on CBS' "The Early Show," and also appeared on "The View."

She said she had no regrets about moving to CBS and loves working at the evening news.

Discovery launching network for rich men in Sept.

NEW YORK (AP)—Discovery Communications Inc. is launching a television network for rich guys and their toys.

Called Velocity, the new network will replace the current network HD Theater in some 40 million homes on Sept. 25, Discovery officials said Thursday. The target audience is men with incomes of \$150,000 a year and more.

"We just felt like this was a space missing in the marketplace," said David Zaslav, president and CEO of Discovery Communications.

HD Theater was launched in 2002 with the specific purpose of showing high-definition versions of programs on other Discovery networks. The rapid adoption of high-def by consumers, and the addition of high-def versions of a full network's signal, rendered HD Theater obsolete.

Discovery has tested a series of



In this Feb. 25, 2010 file photo originally provided by Discovery Communications, Discovery CEO David M. Zaslav attends the premiere of "Life" at the Getty Center in Los Angeles.

programs on HD Theater in recent months that will make the switch to Velocity. They include "Chasing Classic Cars," "Cafe Racer" and "Mecum Auto Auctions."

As those titles suggest, cars will be the "bull's-eye" of Velocity programming, Zaslav said.

"Culturally, cars are so important for us guys in America," he said. "We grew up dreaming about what the day would be like when we got our licenses and what cars we would drive."

Velocity will also televise an upscale sailing race that touches on five oceans, travel programming to upscale locations, adventure sports and "real-life adrenaline shows," said Robert Scanlon, senior vice president of Velocity.

If done right, Velocity could be a magnet for advertisers, who generally pay a premium to reach an upscale audience.

There are no plans for a network to appeal to rich women. Discovery also operates the Oprah Winfrey Network, TLC and Animal Planet, networks with strong appeal to women, Zaslav said.

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Rio

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

Anne Hathaway, will.i.am
 Children's/Family • Rated G

Synopsis
 Rio is a comedy-adventure-love story between two rare macaws. Rio movie is somewhere between being production and post-production. The story is about a geeky macaw that travels from his small home in Minnesota to the complexity of the Rio de Janeiro. He gets on the adventure of a lifetime, learning to open himself up to all that life has to offer along the way.

Scream 4

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
 Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

Neve Campbell, David Arquette
 Horror • Rated R

Synopsis
 The Scream franchise returns from the dead in Wes Craven's fourth entry of the Dimension Films slasher series. Neve Campbell, David Arquette, and Courtney Cox Arquette return to their iconic roles dating back to the original breakthrough film in 1996.

Arthur

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
 Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

Russell Brand, Jennifer Garner
 Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
 Arthur is a sweet but wildly irresponsible playboy whose millions have left him lonely and with no motivation in life. On the threshold of an arranged marriage with a simpering socialite whom he does not love, Arthur meets the spunky, blue-collar waitress Linda Marolla, and falls head over heels.

Your Highness

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
 Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

James Franco, Natalie Portman
 Comedy • Rated R

Hanna

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
 Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

Saoirse Ronan, Cate Blanchett
 Thriller • Rated PG 13

Hop

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
 Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

James Marsden, Russell Brand
 Children's/Family • Rated PG

Source Code

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:30
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
 Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Monaghan
 Science fiction, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Jennifer Lopez named People's most beautiful woman



AP
In a Feb. 13, 2011 file photo, Jennifer Lopez arrives at the 53rd annual Grammy Awards, in Los Angeles.

NEW YORK (AP)—People magazine is naming Jennifer Lopez the World's Most Beautiful Woman.

The singer, actress and "American Idol" judge tops the magazine's annual list of "the World's Most Beautiful" in a special double issue.

Spielberg casts Sally Field as Abe Lincoln's wife



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sally Field has signed on to play the wife of Abraham Lincoln in Steven Spielberg's film biography of the 16th president.

The casting announcement

Lopez is joined on this honor roll by such lovelies as Halle Berry, Jennifer Garner and Beyonce Knowles.

Commenting on her lofty title, the 41-year-old Lopez says, "I feel happy and proud. Proud that I'm not 25!"

Wednesday gives "Lincoln" a pair of two-time Academy Award winners in lead roles.

Daniel Day-Lewis was a best-actor winner for "My Left Foot" and "There Will Be Blood." He will star as Lincoln.

Field is a best-actress recipient for "Norma Rae" and "Places in the Heart." She is playing Mary Todd Lincoln.

Spielberg says Field was his first choice to portray the "fragility and complexity" of Lincoln's wife.

The film is based on Doris Kearns Goodwin's book, "Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln," which examines the president's relationship with key advisers.

Shooting begins this fall, with the film due out in 2012.

Zeta-Jones seeks treatment for bipolar disorder

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Catherine Zeta-Jones is heading back to work this week after seeking inpatient treatment for bipolar disorder.

A spokeswoman for Zeta-Jones says that "after dealing with the stress of the past year," the 41-year-old actress "made the decision to check into a mental health facility for a brief stay to treat her bipolar II disorder."

Publicist CeCe Yorke says Zeta-Jones is "feeling great and looking forward to starting work this week on her two upcoming films."

Zeta-Jones is married to Michael Douglas, who battled throat cancer last year and declared in January that he is cancer free after undergoing chemotherapy and radiation. The couple has a 10-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter.



Zeta-Jones

Bipolar II disorder is characterized by mood swings and depressive episodes and is commonly treated with medication and psychotherapy.

007 remains spy who loved Sony in deal with MGM

LOS ANGELES (AP)—James Bond is staying put with the studio that distributed his last two big-screen adventures. Sony Pictures has signed a deal with MGM to co-finance and distribute the 23rd film in the super-spy franchise, due in theaters Nov. 9, 2012. Daniel Craig will be back for the third time as British agent Bond.

In an announcement Wednesday, the studios said they hope to partner up for a 24th Bond film,

as well.

Sony Corp. had been a part owner of MGM and distributed Craig's earlier Bond flicks, "Casino Royale" and "Quantum of Solace." But the Bond franchise had been on hold until MGM worked out financial problems and emerged from bankruptcy under new ownership.

Sony will handle worldwide distribution for Bond, except for some overseas markets MGM will oversee directly.



AP
In this undated film publicity image released by Sony Pictures, Daniel Craig portrays James Bond in a scene from "Quantum of Solace".

Montel Williams' drug paraphernalia charge dropped

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A judge dismissed a drug paraphernalia possession charge against former talk show host Montel Williams, who was briefly detained at a Milwaukee airport in January after a search of his luggage turned up the type of pipe commonly used for smoking marijuana.

Williams, who says he legally uses marijuana to treat chronic pain caused by multiple sclerosis, was scheduled to stand trial in May on the charge. But a Milwaukee

County judge dismissed the case Tuesday at the district attorney's request after the pipe tested negative for the drug, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported.

"We concluded that this case was not provable," Chief Deputy District Attorney Kent Lovern said.

Williams lives in New York but is participating in experimental treatment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He said he forgot the pipe was in his bag, and

apologized for inconveniencing the airport security agents, deputies and court system. Williams said he is thankful that he can put the episode behind him.

"This isn't about somebody trying to do something illicit. I'm really just trying to take my medication. Hopefully this issue and this incident will spark some conversations that will help more rational minds find a way to solve the problem and take the patients off the battlefield."



Williams

Bunnies bought for easter often wind up in shelters

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: Could you please reprint a letter you ran a few years ago about the dangers of purchasing a pet rabbit for children at Easter? As a rabbit owner for eight years, I'm all too familiar with the misconceptions and ridiculous theories associated with these delightful creatures. Every point in that letter rang true to me, and I beg anyone considering giving a child a rabbit to reconsider.

When I bought my bunny, it was near Easter time. Most pet stores didn't offer them, and I was told it was because of the large number of rabbits found dead or abandoned on the streets because the selfish, inhumane people who bought them for the holiday disposed of them the next day. These dear little animals deserve owners who will love and respect them. Please don't waste their lives.

CAITLIN IN L.A.

DEAR CAITLIN: I'm happy to oblige. The letter you requested carries an important message that can't be repeated often enough:

DEAR ABBY: Easter is coming. Many families still purchase live rabbits as pets for their children. Parents often think rabbits are good "starter" pets and don't understand what they are getting into. As a result, many of these poor creatures end up in animal shelters, and children learn that pets are disposable.

Before getting rabbits, people should consider:

1. Are they willing to make a seven-to-10-year commitment? That is the average lifespan of a rabbit.
2. What will happen if their child gets bored with the bunny after six months?
3. Is there a place in their house for a rabbit cage?
4. Are they willing to pay to get it spayed/neutered and provide vet care?
5. Do they know that most rabbits hate to be held? Will their child accept that?
6. Are they willing to ensure that children under 7 won't pick up the rabbit without supervision? Rabbits are fragile; their legs or spine will break if accidentally dropped.
7. Can they provide three hours of exercise every day in an escape-proof area outside its cage?
8. Do the adults want the rabbit, too? A rabbit should be a family pet.

If people have questions about rabbits and their care, please ask them to contact my organization. We are happy to answer questions. Our website is www.rabbitnetwork.org, and our phone number is (781) 431-1211.

Finally, if a rabbit is right for you and your family, please adopt one from a shelter or rescue group. You'll enrich your family with a new member and also teach your kids the value of saving a life. Thank you.

SUZANNE TRAYHAN, PRESIDENT,
HOUSE RABBIT NETWORK

DEAR SUZANNE: The topic of bunnies, baby chicks and ducklings as Easter gifts is one that recurs every year. I hear from people who work in animal shelters deploring the fact that these helpless little creatures are later dumped when they cease to be novelties. I hope readers will take to heart what you have written, particularly the suggestion that if a rabbit is going to be adopted, a shelter or rescue group can be an excellent resource.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

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Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,]	Civil Action No. 10-0173-CV
vs.]	
FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO and BARBARA P. GUERRERO, Defendants.]	NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 9th day of March, 2011, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, a copy of which has been delivered to Defendants directing the sale of the premises hereinafter described, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 21st day of April, 2011 at 10 a.m., at the Law Office of Robert T. Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 014 D 09, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 014 D 01, the original of which was registered on December 3, 1976 as Document No. 5691 at Land Registry, Saipan.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
 - a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
 - b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
 - c) To reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to the Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and the Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 14th day of March, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

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Romill Millare (Bong)

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JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

EVELYN G. ABABA-LINA, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0526-FCD
versus	SUMMONS
AMELITO E. LINA, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 14th day of October, 2010

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy Inos, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 2011 at 9:00a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board's office at Bldg. #1242, Pohnpei Ct., Capitol Hill, Saipan. Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (3/08/11)
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Director's Report
- VII. Investigator's Report
- VIII. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
- IX. Executive Session – The Board may vote to meet in Executive Session
 - A. JCT
- XV. Announcements
- XVI. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Roman S. Demapan
Vice-Chairman

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Attorney for Petitioner

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

MELANIE M. PELIGRINO-RONCALES, Petitioner,	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0173-FCD
versus	SUMMONS
NESTOR B. RONCALES, Respondent.	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 1st day of April, 2010

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Saipan Tribune

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STORE SPACE
(Across Fiesta Hotel)

Bonds guilty of obstruction of justice



SAN
FRAN-
CISCO
(AP) —

Just like the whole Steroid Era: We'll never really know.

Even the one charge that left Barry Bonds a convicted felon didn't specify steroids.

Instead, a federal court jury found the home run king guilty of obstruction of justice Tuesday for giving an evasive answer under oath more than seven years ago. Rather than say "yes" or "no" to whether he received drugs that required a syringe, Bonds gave a rambling response to a grand jury, stating: "I became a celebrity child with a famous father."

The decision from the eight women and four men who listened to testimony during the 12-day trial turned out to be a mixed and muddled verdict on the slugger that left more questions than answers.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston declared a mistrial on the three charges that Bonds made false statements when he told a grand jury in December 2003 that he never knowingly received steroids and human growth hormone from trainer Greg Anderson and that he allowed only doctors to inject him.

Defense lawyers will try to persuade Illston or the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to toss out the lone conviction. Federal prosecutors must decide whether it is worth the time and expense to try Bonds for a second time on the deadlocked charges.

Less than two miles from the ballpark where he broke Hank Aaron's career home run record in August 2007, Bonds walked out of the Phillip Burton Federal Building on a sunny, windy afternoon and looked on as his lead lawyer, Allen Ruby, held a sidewalk news conference. Ruby instructed Bonds not to comment because the case wasn't over.

Impeccably dressed in black suit and purple necktie, with a few days of stubble on his chin, Bonds flashed a victory sign to a few fans.

"Are you celebrating tonight?" one asked.

"There's nothing to celebrate," he replied.

While Bonds stood on the sidewalk on the courthouse's north side, the jurors—whose names are being withheld until Thursday—went out the south entrance and many lingered to answer questions. For now, most only would give their first names.

Amber, a 19-year-old blonde woman who was the youngest juror, said the final votes were 8-4 to acquit Bonds of lying about steroids and 9-3 to acquit



Former baseball player Barry Bonds, left, waves to supporters as leaves federal court with his attorney Allen Ruby, right, Wednesday, April 13, 2011, in San Francisco, after being found guilty of one count of obstruction of justice.

him on lying about HGH use. The panel voted 11-1 to convict him of getting an injection from someone other than his doctor, with one woman holding out, she said.

Jurors decided to convict Bonds on the obstruction count on Tuesday; on Wednesday they decided they could not come to unanimous decisions on the rest.

There was initial confusion when the jurors informed Illston's clerk, Tracy Forakis, that they had reached a verdict, and the court made a public announcement. But when Forakis went back to the jury room, the panel said the verdict form wasn't completed because there was a deadlock. The court then issued a retraction of its verdict announcement and Illston convened the lawyers, first without jurors, then with them, and learned they were stalemated on at least some of the charges.

Bonds, the seven-time National League MVP, chatted with his lawyers while Illston and the jury went back behind closed doors. When they returned, Illston opened a manila envelope with the verdict and handed it to Forakis to read.

Bonds leaned forward, looked at the clerk, but never reacted when the verdict was read. His mother, Pat, watched from a second-row bench.

"Divided, not unanimous," on count one.

"Divided, not unanimous," on count two.

"Divided, not unanimous," on count three.

And then, just when it appeared Bonds would escape unscathed, came the final word

from the jury:

"Guilty," on obstruction of justice.

Dennis Riordan, one of the lawyers on Bonds' legal team that numbered as many as 13 some days, asked Illston to throw out the guilty verdict and for a new trial on that count. Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Parrella asked the judge to set a sentencing date. Instead, Illston announced a May 20 date for a status conference.

"This case is about upholding one of the most fundamental principles in our system of justice—the obligation of every witness to provide truthful and direct testimony in judicial proceedings," Melinda Haag, the U.S. Attorney in San Francisco, said in a statement. "In the United States, taking an oath and promising to testify truthfully is a serious matter. We cannot ignore those who choose instead to obstruct justice. We will decide whether to seek a retrial of the defendant on the remaining counts as soon as possible."

Now 46 and far trimmer than he appeared in the final years of his career, Bonds faces up to 10 years in prison on the obstruction conviction. Yet federal guidelines call for 15-21 months.

For similar offenses in the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative steroids ring case, known as BALCO, Illston sentenced cyclist Tammy Thomas to six months of home confinement and track coach Trevor Graham to one year of home confinement.

Baseball's season (73) and career (762) record-holder for home runs, Bonds testified be-

fore a grand jury that Anderson told him the substances he was giving Bonds were flaxseed oil and arthritic balm, and that Bonds didn't know they were designer steroids.

"Did Greg ever give you anything that required a syringe to inject yourself with?" Bonds was asked.

His answer meandered, talking about his friendship with Anderson. The underlined part in the indictment, the crime he was convicted of, was this response: "That's what keeps our friendship. You know, I am sorry, but that—you know, that—I was a celebrity child, not just in baseball by my own instincts. I became a celebrity child with a famous father. I just don't get into other people's business because of my father's situation, you see."

The jury instruction said that to be convicted, Bonds must be found to have "obstructed, influenced or impeded, or endeavored to obstruct, influence, or impede" the grand jury "by knowingly giving material testimony that was intentionally evasive, false or misleading."

The defense plans to argue that Bonds' answer wasn't relevant to the grand jury.

The government "has determined it's unlawful for Barry Bonds to tell the grand jury he's a celebrity child and to talk about his friendship with Greg Anderson," Ruby said.

Jurors said they unanimously agreed Tuesday on the obstruction verdict.

"When you're in front of a grand jury you have to answer, and he gave a (expletive) answer," said Fred Jacob, the

56-year-old jury foreman. "He gave a story rather than a yes-or-no answer."

Jurors generally spent one day of deliberations on each count.

A 60-year-old juror, who identified himself only as Steve, thought the defense successfully impeached key prosecution witnesses Steve and Kathy Hoskins and Kimberly Bell during cross-examination.

"They tried to discredit the witnesses. They tried to make the prosecutors look like bad guys. Were they successful in doing that? Yes," he said.

He also said the government was hurt by Bonds' physician, Dr. Arthur Ting, who refuted many of Steve Hoskins' allegations.

"I think the prosecutors got a big bomb thrown in their lap," Steve said.

Jacob said the absence of Anderson—who was imprisoned during the trial on a contempt citation for refusing to testify—hindered the government's ability to prove Bonds lied about steroids.

"We couldn't connect the dots between steroids, Greg and Barry," he said.

On the HGH count, he said: "There just wasn't any evidence. HGH is very hard to detect and there wasn't any scientific evidence. Everything was circumstantial."

The holdout on the "needle" count was a juror who identified herself as Nyiesha. She said she didn't believe the testimony of Bonds' personal shopper Kathy Hoskins, who told the jury she watched Anderson inject the slugger in the belly.

"They were family," Nyie-

sha said of the Hoskins siblings. "That left me with reasonable doubt."

Nyiesha, a 28-year-old nurse, said she almost changed her mind Monday, but decided to remain steadfast after "sleeping on it."

Other jurors said they found Kathy Hoskins to be the most credible of the central witnesses.

Jacob didn't hold out much hope for prosecutors gaining additional convictions in a retrial.

If they want to "pursue this case," he said, "they're going to have to do more homework than they did."

Bonds became the 11th person—and fourth athlete—who either was convicted or pleaded guilty in the BALCO case, which began in 2002. Other athletes, besides Thomas, include NFL defensive lineman Dana Stubblefield and Olympic track gold medalist Marion Jones, who also pleaded guilty in a check-fraud scheme.

It was a messy end to a case that put the slugger—and baseball itself—under a cloud of suspicion for more than three years since Bonds' indictment. Former AL MVP Jason Giambi and three other players were forced to publicly admit their use of steroids. Bonds did not testify, and the defense didn't even call any witnesses after prosecutors called 25 to the stand.

Next up is Roger Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, scheduled for trial in federal court in Washington, D.C., starting July 6, on three counts of making false statements, two counts of perjury and one count of obstruction of Congress. That case may be delayed by wrangling over evidence.

Jeff Novitzky, the federal investigator who aggressively led the BALCO investigation, is at the forefront of a different grand jury probing Lance Armstrong, who has won the Tour de France a record seven times.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig did not mention Bonds by name in a post-trial statement. Instead, he stressed MLB's efforts to rid the sports of performance-enhancing drugs.

"This trial is a stark illustration of how far this sport has come," he said. "In contrast to allegations about the conduct of former players and the environment of past years, 2011 marks the eighth season of drug testing in the major leagues and our 11th season in the minors. With increased testing, cutting-edge research, proactive security efforts, and extensive education and awareness programs, we have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to keeping illegal substances out of the game."

With Hamilton out, Rangers lose to Tigers 3-2



**D E -
T R O I T**
(A P) —

Brandon Inge hit a solo homer in the bottom of the ninth inning as the Detroit Tigers beat the Texas Rangers in their last at-bat for the second straight day, 3-2 on Wednesday.

With one out, Inge hit the first pitch from Darren Oliver (1-1) over the left-field wall. Jose Valverde (2-0) pitched a scoreless top of the ninth for the Tigers.

Texas played its first game since star Josh Hamilton broke his arm. The AL MVP could miss two months after getting hurt Tuesday, when Detroit beat Texas 5-4 on an RBI single in the ninth by Miguel Cabrera. Hamilton was injured while being thrown out at the plate when he tagged up on a foul popup.

Spot starter Dave Bush made it through three scoreless innings, although he allowed three hits and three walks and threw 71 pitches.

Yankees 7, Orioles 4

At New York, A.J. Burnett remained undefeated in April with the Yankees, pitching effectively into the seventh inning, and Alex Rodriguez hit a three-run homer.

Robinson Cano added a two-run double and Jorge Posada homered for the Yankees, who moved into a tie atop the AL East with the Orioles. Baltimore lost its third in a row.

Derek Jeter matched Barry Bonds for 32nd on the all-time hits list with 2,935 on the day the former slugger was convicted in a San Francisco courtroom of obstruction of justice.

Matt Wieters and Brian Roberts each hit two-run homers in the seventh. Roberts' one-out drive into the Yankees' bullpen in right-center ended the night for Burnett (3-0).

Athletics 7, White Sox 4

At Chicago, Coco Crisp hit a go-ahead single for Oakland in a three-run 10th inning after the Athletics scored three times in the ninth in a win over Chicago.

Crisp entered the game in the ninth as a pinch-runner and was in a 3-for-22 slump before singling off Matt Thornton (0-2). The struggling Chicago closer had walked Conor Jackson and Josh Willingham to set up Crisp.

Daric Barton followed with a two-run single, and Thornton was booed as he was walked off



Detroit Tigers Brandon Inge, right, celebrates hitting a walk off home run with Miguel Cabrera against the Texas Rangers in the ninth inning of a baseball game in Detroit, Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

the mound and was replaced by Tony Pena.

Cliff Pennington's two-run, bases-loaded single in the ninth off Thornton made it 4-all. It was the third late-inning meltdown by Chicago's bullpen in less than a week, all losses.

Blue Jays 8, Mariners 3

At Seattle, Jose Bautista hit a three-run homer off Seattle reliever Chris Ray, part of Toronto's six-run eighth inning, as Toronto avoided a three-game sweep.

Bautista unloaded on a 2-1 breaking ball that Ray (1-1) left in the middle of the plate, hitting it into the Toronto bullpen in left field—where reliever Jon Rauch caught the homer as he was warming up.

It was Bautista's third homer of the season and snapped an 17-inning scoreless streak by the Mariners' bullpen, ruining a strong start by Seattle lefty Ja-

son Vargas. Toronto sent 11 batters to the plate in the inning.

Toronto's Mark Rzepczynski (1-0) worked two innings of hitless relief to get the victory.

Angels 4, Indians 3, 12 innings

At Anaheim, California, Jeff Mathis hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the 12th inning to score Vernon Wells and give Los Angeles the win.

Wells singled sharply into the hole off the glove of shortstop Asdrubal Cabrera with one out in the 12th, only his fifth hit in 49 at-bats this season.

Chad Durbin (0-1) walked Alberto Callaspo, and both runners advanced on a wild pitch to Mark Trumbo. An intentional walk to Trumbo loaded the bases.

Mathis hit a fly to medium center field and Wells streaked home ahead of Michael Brantley's throw. Hisanori Takahashi (1-0) posted his first AL victory

with two perfect innings.

Royals 10, Twins 5

At Minneapolis, slumping Mike Aviles doubled twice and drove in three runs as Kansas City became the latest team to tag Minnesota ace Francisco Liriano.

Aviles ended his 0-for-18 rut and Alex Gordon added two hits and drove in two runs. The Royals scored six times in the fourth inning to break open the game.

Kyle Davies (1-1) won despite allowing five runs and 10 hits in five innings. Jeremy Jeffress threw two scoreless innings for his first major league save.

Liriano (0-3) gave up six straight hits during the Royals' big inning.

Denard Span was 4 for 4 and scored twice for the Twins, who started the day as the lowest-scoring team in the majors.

Phils 3, Nationals 2

At Washington, Roy Halladay

held on to throw his first complete game of 2011, leading the Philadelphia Phillies past the Washington Nationals.

Through eight shutout innings, Halladay (2-0) allowed only a pair of singles by Adam LaRoche. In the ninth, Halladay allowed four hits, including RBI singles by Laynce Nix and Danny Espinosa. But with two on, the two-time Cy Young winner ended it with six straight strikes to fan pinch-hitter Matt Stairs and Ivan Rodriguez, who argued the game-ending call at length.

Halladay had nine strikeouts and two walks. He walked one batter in 15 2-3 innings this season before he issued consecutive free passes to Ian Desmond and Rick Ankiel in the third.

John Lannan (1-1) fell to 0-9 against Philadelphia, allowing only two earned runs and six hits—five of which were singles.

Rockies 5, Mets 4

At New York, Troy Tulowitzki hit a go-ahead home run through thick fog to help Colorado continue the best start in club history.

Ryan Spilborghs also connected and Esmer Rogers (2-0) won his second straight outing to begin the season as Colorado earned its fourth consecutive victory — all on the road.

The National League West leaders improved to 8-2, with the only two losses coming in extra innings.

Tulowitzki's three-run shot came off Jonathon Niese (0-2) in the fifth inning and gave the Rockies a 4-3 lead.

Carlos Beltran and Daniel Murphy each had an RBI double for the Mets, who have dropped six of seven following a three-game winning streak.

Marlins 5, Braves 1

At Atlanta, Florida's Josh Johnson took a no-hit bid into the eighth inning before rookie Freddie Freeman doubled with one out.

Johnson (2-0), who held the Mets hitless for six innings on opening day, dominated the Braves for 7 1-3 innings, striking out nine and walking three.

Freeman doubled down the line past third baseman Greg Dobbs. Marlins manager Edwin Rodriguez immediately went out to pull his ace after 109 pitches.

Chipper Jones homered in the ninth off Randy Choate for the Braves' only other hit. The home run gave Jones 1,500

RBI's for his career.

Chris Coghlan had three hits, including a two-run single in a three-run second. Johnson contributed an RBI single and Logan Morrison hit his third homer.

Brewers 6, Pirates 0

At Pittsburgh, Shaun Marcum pitched seven shutout innings, and Prince Fielder homered for the third time in four games to help Milwaukee win its sixth in seven games.

Marcum (2-1) was perfect through four and kept the Pirates off-balance with his changeup, allowing only four singles with four strikeouts and a walk. Acquired in an offseason trade with Toronto to bolster Milwaukee's rotation, Marcum lowered his ERA to 2.55 through three starts.

Zach Braddock, Kameron Loe and Mitch Stetter finished up Milwaukee's third shutout this season and second in three games.

Padres 3, Reds 2

At San Diego, Orlando Hudson hit a bases-loaded, opposite-field single with two outs in the ninth inning to help San Diego avoid a three-game sweep.

Hudson hit the first pitch he saw from Nick Masset (0-3) over third baseman Juan Francisco's head and into left field.

With the score tied at 2, pinch-hitter Brad Hawpe started the rally with a one-out walk before advancing to third on Nick Hundley's hit-and-run single to right. Will Venable was intentionally walked to get to Jason Bartlett, who was hitting just .133. Bartlett grounded to third baseman Juan Francisco, who threw to home for the force.

Heath Bell (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win.

Cubs 9, Astros 5

At Houston, pitcher Carlos Zambrano extended a franchise record with his 22nd career homer and ran his winning streak to 10 games as the Cubs beat the Astros.

Cardinals 15, Diamondbacks 5

At Phoenix, Lance Berkman hit a grand slam and drove in five runs as St. Louis routed Arizona.

Giants 4, Dodgers 3

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit a tying solo home run in the sixth inning and last-minute fill-in Mike Fontenot connected two batters later.

NFL's Goodell 'looking forward' to mediation



MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The NFL and its locked-out players are set to start talking again, after more than a month since they last met about a new collective bargaining agreement.

Might this foreshadow progress toward ensuring that pro football goes on this fall? Or is the court-ordered mediation between the two sides merely a formality that will yield little as long as a key legal ruling on the lock-out is still pending?

Thirty-three days after the NFL and the play-

ers cut off negotiations and put the 2011 season in peril, they'll return to the table Thursday with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan mediating the session in federal court in Minneapolis.

League officials, led by executive vice president Jeff Pash, met with Boylan for about five hours Wednesday. Lawyers for the players met with Boylan for about four hours Tuesday.

"We appreciate the opportunity to meet with the magistrate and review the issues with him in preparation for our session tomorrow, and we're looking forward to seeing the players and their

representatives tomorrow morning," Pash said.

Larger contingents are expected Thursday, with commissioner Roger Goodell himself scheduled to arrive. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello also said some of the owners will be there.

This was posted on Goodell's Twitter feed Wednesday night: "I am also looking forward to resuming mediation talks tomorrow with players and their representatives."

NFL Players Association executive DeMaurice Smith is set to attend, too, after withdrawing from a speaking event in North Carolina so he could be

in Minnesota.

The NFLPA, dissolved by a vote of the players, is now a trade association and not a union. Smith, an attorney, was formally added to the legal team last week so he could represent the players in mediation even though he is no longer their union boss.

Mediation is considered the first positive step in this process since March 11, when the union was dissolved, the CBA expired and the NFL wound up a few hours later with its first work stoppage since the 1987 strike. All that has taken place since are lawsuits and sharp disagreements between the sides in one of the most rancorous sports labor disputes in memory.

Spurs lose, Bulls gain home edge through playoffs



CHICAGO (AP)—Kyle Korver scored 19 points, Derrick Rose had 15 as the Chicago Bulls closed the regular season with their ninth straight victory, beating the New Jersey Nets 97-92 on Wednesday.

The Bulls earned home-court advantage throughout the playoffs with the NBA's best record later Wednesday with San Antonio's loss to Phoenix.

Joakim Noah finished with 10 points and 10 rebounds to help the Bulls finish 62-20, equaling their best showing since the 1997-98 championship season.

Chicago will face Indiana in the first round of the playoffs.

Jordan Farmar had 21 points and 12 assists for the Nets.

Suns 106, Spurs 103

At Phoenix, Marcin Gortat had 21 points and 13 rebounds as Phoenix denied San Antonio a chance for home-court advantage throughout the playoffs.

The Spurs, who at 61-21 finished a game behind Chicago for the best record in the NBA, lost Manu Ginobili to a hyperextended right elbow early in the game.

Of greater concern to San Antonio could be the health of Ginobili, who went down with 9:46 left in the first quarter. X-rays for a more serious injury were negative. An MRI was planned on Thursday.

San Antonio will open against Memphis in the playoffs.

Lakers 116, Kings 108, OT

At Sacramento, California, Kobe Bryant scored 36 points and forced overtime with a tying 3-pointer with 4.8 seconds left in regulation, and Los Angeles regrouped to beat Sacramento in what might have been the Kings' last game in Sacramento.

A standing-room only crowd packed things beyond the 17,317-seat capacity, clanking cow bells and roaring louder than they had in years. With the team mulling a move to Anaheim, fans brought handmade signs and cheered their loudest to will the team back. And they nearly did.

Instead, the Lakers pulled away in overtime to take the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference, setting up a first-round series against New Orleans.

Marcus Thornton had 33 points and Tyreke Evans added 16 for the Kings.

Heat 97, Raptors 79

At Toronto, Eddie House scored a career-high 35 points and Juwan Howard added 18 as Miami beat Toronto in the regular-season finale.

With the Heat assured of the second seed in the East, Miami coach Erik Spoelstra rested LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh.

Miami will host Philadelphia in its postseason opener Saturday.

House's previous career best was 31, set against Utah on Nov. 18, 2005. He was 7 of 13 from 3-point range. The Heat have won four straight and 15 of 18 heading into the playoffs.

Jerryd Bayless scored 21 points for Toronto.

Celtics 112, Knicks 102

At Boston, Avery Bradley scored a career-high 20 points to help Boston's "B" team beat New York's sec-

ond string in a regular-season finale both teams.

Glen "Big Baby" Davis had 17 points and eight rebounds, and Sasha Pavlovic added a season-high 19 points as the Celtics snapped a two-game losing streak.

Amare Stoudemire played 20 minutes and scored 14 points for New York, which will return to Boston to open the Eastern Conference post-season Sunday night.

Magic 92, Pacers 74

At Orlando, Florida, Ryan Anderson scored 14 points, and Dwight Howard had 13 points and 13 rebounds in a short night in Orlando's victory over Indiana.

Mike Dunleavy and Brandon Rush both scored 16 points for Indiana.

The Pacers open their first playoff series in five years on Saturday against top-seeded Chicago. The Magic will host Atlanta on Saturday night in a matchup of the fourth and fifth seeds.

Clippers 110, Grizzlies 103

At Los Angeles, Blake Griffin had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists in the 82nd and final game of his spectacular rookie season for Los Angeles.

Griffin sat out all 82 games last season after hurting his knee in the final preseason game and having surgery. He was the only player to appear in every game this season when injuries plagued the team.

Eric Gordon added 24 points and DeAndre Jordan had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Los Angeles. The Clippers finished 32-50 to miss the playoffs again.

Sam Young had 22 points for Memphis.

Mavericks 121, Hornets 89

At Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki scored 12 of his 32 points in the decisive third quarter, leading Dallas past New Orleans in the regular-season finale.

Dallas wound up No. 3 in the Western Conference and will face Portland in the opening round. The Los Angeles Lakers held onto the No. 2 spot by beating Sacramento in overtime later Wednesday. New Orleans hung onto the seventh spot because Memphis also lost. The Hornets will face the Lakers.

Jarrett Jack led New Orleans with 22 points.

Warriors 110, Trail Blazers 86

At Oakland, California, Reggie Williams scored 28 points, and Stephen Curry had 18 points and nine assists in Golden State's victory over Portland.

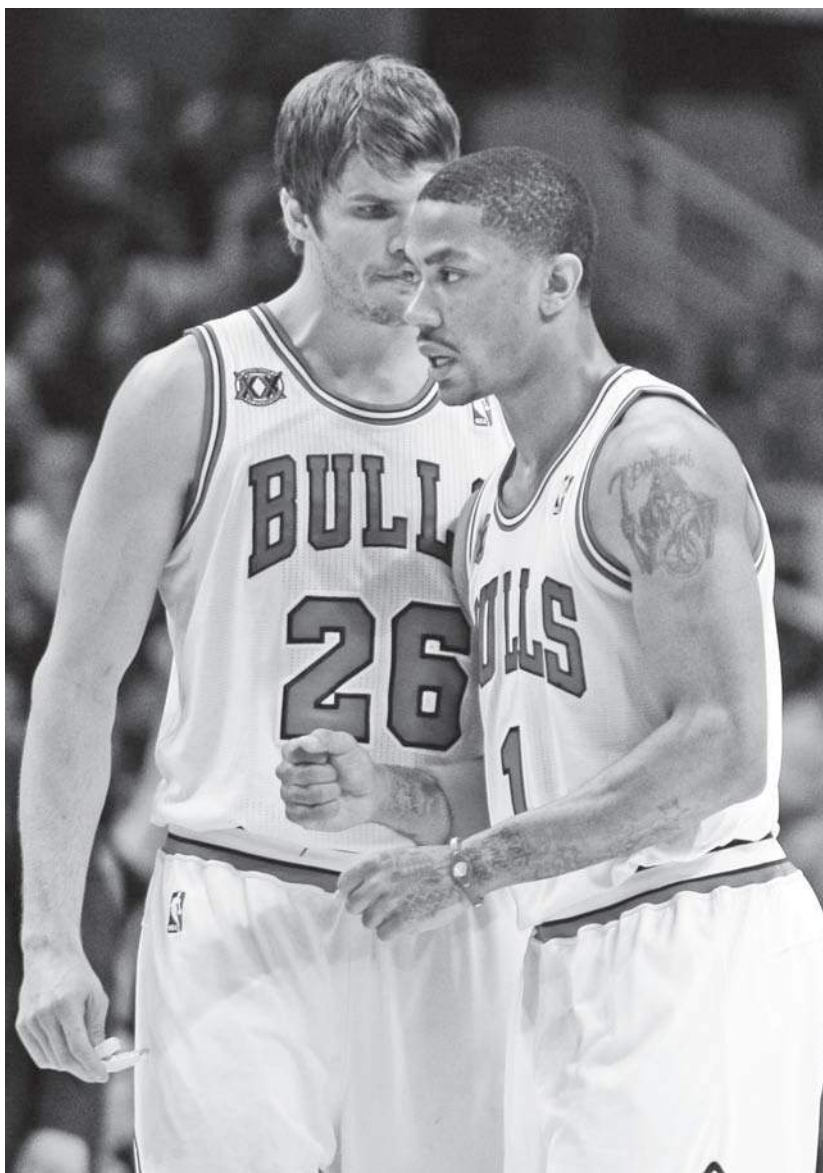
Dorell Wright had 20 points to cap a breakout season for the veteran forward and David Lee added 13 points for the Warriors.

Patty Mills had a career-high 23 points and Wesley Matthews added 18 points for Portland, which already had locked up the No. 6 seed in the Western Conference.

Bucks 110, Thunder 106, OT

At Oklahoma City, Brandon Jennings scored 16 points as Milwaukee sent Michael Redd into free agency with a victory over Oklahoma City.

Jennings outscored the Thunder 8-2 in the final 2:21, hitting the go-ahead reverse layup with 56.8 seconds left and then hitting two free throws to



Chicago Bulls' Derrick Rose, right, talks to teammate Kyle Korver during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the New Jersey Nets in Chicago, Wednesday, April 13, 2011.

put the game away.

Russell Westbrook scored 20 points and Kevin Durant added 14 in a season-low 23 minutes as the Thunder gave their starters a lightened load with the playoffs looming. Oklahoma City will be the No. 4 seed in the Western Conference and open against Denver.

Jazz 107, Nuggets 103

At Salt Lake City, rookie Gordon Hayward scored a career-high 34 points and hit five 3-pointers to lift Utah past playoff-bound Denver.

The game meant little to the Nuggets, who already had locked up the Western Conference's No. 5 seed and

rested many of their players.

Wilson Chandler led the Nuggets with 27 points.

Bobcats 96, Hawks 85

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Henderson scored 20 points, and D.J. Augustin added 17 points and seven assists as Charlotte sent Atlanta to the playoffs on a six-game losing streak.

With no starter playing more than 25 minutes and only Kirk Hinrich (10 points) scoring in double figures, coach Larry Drew got the Hawks rest, but no momentum heading into their first-round game at Orlando on Saturday.

Pistons 104, 76ers 100

At Philadelphia, Rodney Stuckey scored 29 points, and Tayshaun Prince had 14 to help Detroit hand playoff-bound Philadelphia its fifth loss in six games.

Jrue Holiday led the 76ers with 21 points. They will open the playoffs against Miami.

Cavaliers 100, Wizards 93

At Cleveland, Ramon Sessions scored 27 points and J.J. Hickson added 15 as Cleveland closed out one of the worst seasons in franchise history—and first in eight years without LeBron James.

The Cavs finished 19-63, an extreme drop after going a league-best 61-21 during the regular season in 2010 before James bolted as a free agent. Andray Blatche scored 20 for Washington.

Rockets 121, Timberwolves 102

At Minneapolis, Chase Budinger scored a career-high 35 points and Kevin Martin added 25 for Houston.

Michael Beasley scored 34 points and Anthony Randolph had 23 for Minnesota. The Timberwolves lost their last 15 games of the season to finish with the worst record in the NBA at 15-65.

Kobe Bryant fined \$100,000 for gay slur

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The NBA fined Kobe Bryant \$100,000 on Wednesday for using a derogatory gay term in frustration over a referee's call.

NBA Commissioner David Stern issued a swift disciplinary ruling after the Los Angeles Lakers' five-time NBA champion guard cursed and used the homophobic slur when referee Bennie Adams called a technical foul on him during the third quarter of a victory over the San Antonio Spurs.

"Kobe Bryant's comment during last night's game was offensive and inexcusable," Stern said. "While I'm fully aware that basketball is an emotional game, such a distasteful term should never be tolerated. ... Kobe and everyone associated with the NBA know that insensitive or derogatory comments are not acceptable and have no place in our game or society."

Stern's action drew praise from gay-rights organizations that had demanded a fuller apology from Bryant and condemnation of his words by the Lakers. Bryant, the sixth-leading scorer in NBA history, issued a statement earlier Wednesday saying his words came strictly out of anger and

shouldn't be taken literally.

"We applaud Commissioner Stern and the NBA for not only fining Bryant but for recognizing that slurs and derogatory comments have no place on the basketball court or in society at large," Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese said. "We hope such swift and decisive action will send a strong and universal message that this kind of hateful outburst is simply inexcusable no matter what the context."

Solmonese said Bryant also personally called him to apologize.

"He told me that it's never OK to degrade or tease, and that he understands how his words could unfortunately give the wrong impression that this is appropriate conduct," Solmonese said. "At the end of a difficult day, I applaud Kobe for coming forward and taking responsibility for his actions."

Bryant's words and actions were captured by TNT's cameras during the network's national broadcast of the Lakers' regular-season home finale.

Bryant punched his chair before taking a seat on the bench, throwing a towel on the court near his feet in frus-

tration after picking up his fourth foul in the third quarter. He got his 15th technical of the season for arguing the call, one shy of the cumulative trigger for a one-game NBA suspension.

"What I said last night should not be taken literally. My actions were out of frustration during the heat of the game, period," Bryant said in a statement issued through the Lakers. "The words expressed do NOT reflect my feelings towards the gay and lesbian communities and were NOT meant to offend anyone."

The 32-year-old Bryant is a former league MVP, a 13-time All-Star, the leading scorer in Lakers franchise history and sixth on the NBA's career list after passing Moses Malone last month. He was the MVP of the last two NBA finals while leading the Lakers to back-to-back titles.

Bryant has been among the NBA's most popular players worldwide for most of his 15-year career, spent entirely with the Lakers, even after he was arrested and accused of sexual assault in 2003 in a case that was later dropped. He has several lucrative endorsement deals with companies ranging from Sprite to Turkish Airlines.

Your Balls upsets V-Power, 11-1

By **WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND**
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Your Balls pulled off an impressive 11-1 victory over third-ranked V-Power, while Man Amigos defeated Gorillas, 11-2, in last Wednesday's Chamolinian Softball Association 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's division matchups at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Your Balls issued V-Power its third loss in nine games while improving its win-loss card to 3-4. One of V-Power's defeats was the result of a forfeit. The



WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
Your Balls' Joe Lizama connects on a three-run, walkoff homer that helped his team upset V-Power, 11-1, Wednesday night as the 2nd Annual Budweiser Slow-Pitch Softball League men's division continued at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

X-clusive Golf Association April Ace this Sunday



The X-Clusive Golf Association is holding its monthly April Ace of the Month Tournament at Coral Ocean Point this Sunday morning. Show time is set for 9:30am with a 10am tee off. Normally, XGA events are

scheduled for Saturdays, but adjusted this month to coincide with Greg Sablan's birthday celebration, which will be held at the awards ceremony immediately after the event at COP. Last month, Jay Atalig took home March Ace honors, while XGA vice president

Gerald Guerrero was declared February's Ace and captain Peter Guerrero hoisted the January Ace trophy in the season opener. The fourth XGA season started in January and concludes with its annual year-end tournament in December. All monthly aces win auto-

matic entry into the yearend final event. More details and updates will be released later. XGA currently has 37 active members. Contact XGA president Dave Cepeda at 285-0931 or secretary Jay Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. *(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)*

ANGELS

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with a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Tyrone Omar led off with a walk, stole second, and was driven home by Jesus Iguel. Iguel then stole two bases and was brought home by Nokki Saralu. Pete Tomokane then brought him to the plate in the next at bat before the Masters could escape. Masters left a man at third in the bottom frame, and the Angels added a run in the top of the second. Pat Alepuyo smashed a one-out triple and trotted home off a base rip by Omar. Masters did not answer in the bottom frame, but kept the Angels at bay in the top half of the third. Then later in the bottom of the fourth, Masters' Greg Camacho halved his team's deficit with a two-run homerun over the right field fence; Harlan Reyes came around to the plate with him.

The Angels would answer and got a run back at the start of the fifth off a passed ball. Despite the homer, Masters went cold and went three up and three down in their next two chances. Then in the top of the seventh, the Angels pulled ahead, 6-2, off a double by Tomokane. Masters then left runners on the corners in the bottom frame. Masters' closer Camacho came to the mound to start the eighth for Ed Santos and managed a 1-2-3 inning. Then Angels' Dung Tenorio came in to close the game for starter Thomas Joab. The Masters managed to pull within two runs, 4-6, in the bottom half off errors, but the Angles threw down again and tacked on two more runs in the top of the ninth off errors. Although the Masters threatened in their final stand with the bases loaded and zero outs, Tenorio buckled down and bagged a couple of groundouts at the plate and a fly ball to seal

the deal. Angels' Tomokane batted 3-for-5 with two RBIs and a run; Iguel came out with an RBI, three runs, and three stolen bases off just one hit. Winning pitcher Joab allowed one earned run off four hits and one hit-by-pitch with four strikeouts. **D-9ers 6, Ol'Aces 4** D-9ers struck first with a run off a single by Chris Camacho at the start of the opening frame, but Ol'Aces got away with ducks on the pond. The Ol'Aces drew a blank in the bottom frame and D-9ers went ahead, 3-0, in the top of the second off an error and a double by Joe Palacios. The Ol'Aces managed a run off an error in the bottom half and held D-9ers scoreless in the top of the third. Later at the start of the fourth, Ol'Aces' Jacob Babauta came to the mound in relief for Peter Tegita. However, D-9ers still added a run off an error then took a 5-1

lead in the top of the seventh off an RBI base hit by Isaiah Lizama. Meanwhile, the Ol'Aces struggled at the plate and managed only four hits in the first seven frames. D-9ers' closer Mel Sakisat struck out his first batter to close the last out of the seventh for Jared Camacho, and his team added a run off a passed ball in the top of the eighth inning. D-9ers' then gave up three runs off five hits in the bottom of the eighth; Jesus Borja, Oliver Sechamidal and Erick Lizama all ripped RBI singles, but hung tough in the final stand. Winning pitcher Jared Camacho allowed one unearned run off four hits and one walk with four strikeouts. D-9ers' Chris Camacho batted 3-for-5 with a triple, an RBI, and a run. Palacios batted 2-for-4 with an RBI, two runs, a base on ball, and a stolen base. The SML resumes tonight with D-9ers taking on Brewers (2-3) at 6:30pm at Tan Ko Field, while the Ol'Aces will challenge the Fielders (3-2) on Tuesday.

TSUNAMI

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swimmers. The competition will continue tomorrow with two sessions, with the first one running from 9am to 11am and the second from 4pm to 6pm. Today's event includes

100m and 50m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, and 200m and 400m individual medley. Tomorrow, the meet will start with the 100m butterfly race, followed by the 50m butterfly, 100m and 50m back, 100m breast, and 800m freestyle. The afternoon session will have the 25m freestyle,

200m butterfly, the boys 100m breaststroke finals, 200m freestyle, girls 100m backstroke finals, 25m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle. In the two final races, only the Top 5 finishers in the preliminary swims will compete. Tsunami will then recognized the Top 3 placers in each age

group, but no awards ceremony will take place. Winners will be determined by combining points they will earn in each event. Ten points will be given to the top finisher, eight to second, and six to third. Points will be awarded only to swimmers who meet cut-off times.

NO MORE

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Division B lead after shutting out MP United, Blue 4-0. Sung Ho Kang tallied twin goals for SKY FC, while Gun Hee Kang and Xu Zheng had one apiece to hand MP United

Blue back-to-back losses. MP United had chance to end its losing kid last night, as it was set to duel the winless Shirley's FC. Results of the game were unavailable at press time. **Shirley's FC 3, Independents 3** Shirley's FC forced a 3-3

draw against Independents to gain its first point in the league. Both teams dropped their first three games. Russelle Zapanta recorded two goals for Shirley's while Fradel Sedillo had one. Jonavin Ichihara also had twin goals for Independents, while Kevin Mc-

Cale made one. Meanwhile, after taking a break for about two weeks, action in Division A resumes this Sunday with MP United and Inter Godfather's playing in the second game at 2pm. In the third match of the day at 4pm, Wild Bill's will take on Baek Du San.

bottom of the fourth. V-Power uncharacteristically managed only two base runners in the first four frames. V-Power's Mel Sakisat provided his team's only spark of offense with a leadoff solo homer to start the fifth inning, but his teammates were not able to mount a comeback. Instead Your Balls stuffed V-Power 1-2-3 in the top of the sixth and went on to bag the four runs needed for the early decision. Sablan belted an RBI double and Joe Lizama airmailed the walkoff, three-run blast to secure the mercy victory.

Man Amigos 11, Gorillaz 2 Man Amigos amassed an early 8-0 lead in the bottom of the second inning off nine hits. Ben Tagabuel smashed a two-RBI triple, John Terlaje, Roy Celis, and James Fleming issued RBI

doubles, while Julian Camacho and Mike Sablan came out with RBI singles. Then both teams traded runs in the fourth inning. The Gorillaz's run came home off an error, while Man Amigos Camacho pulled on another RBI base rip. Gorillaz managed its last run in the top of the fifth off another error, but Man Amigos answered with two runs from solo blast by Manny Sablan and a sacrifice fly by Mark Flores and went on to secure its win an inning early. Chamolinian softball action continues tonight at Capital Hill with a 6:30pm men's pairing featuring X-Clusive (4-3) and Berdax (3-4), followed by a 7:30pm women's matchup between Check It Out (1-6) and second place Enamo Meta (6-1). The night concludes with an 8:30pm men's match between G-Ballers (3-5) and Red Eye (3-6).

MIEKO

From Page 40

I took fourth place two years ago and I was third last year. If I can go this year, I want to perform better than last year," the 2010 Micronesian Games gold medalist said. After the MTB race, Carey will return to Saipan and pre-

pare for XTERRA Japan where she will be going for an unprecedented third title in a row. The 2011 XTERRA Japan in Marunuma, Gunma Prefecture will be held on Aug. 27. Last year, Carey survived the soggy course to finish the race in three hours and three minutes, the best time among female participants. In 2009, Carey's winning time was 3:00:16.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES											
NBA STANDINGS						MLB STANDINGS					
EASTERN CONFERENCE						AMERICAN LEAGUE					
Atlantic Division						East Division					
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	Pct	GB		
y-Boston	56	26	.683	—		Baltimore	6	4	.600	—	
x-New York	42	40	.512	14		New York	6	4	.600	—	
x-Philadelphia	41	41	.500	15		Toronto	6	6	.500	1	
New Jersey	24	58	.293	32		Tampa Bay	3	8	.273	3 1/2	
Toronto	22	60	.268	34		Boston	2	9	.182	4 1/2	
Southeast Division						Central Division					
y-Miami	58	24	.707	—		Cleveland	8	4	.667	—	
x-Orlando	52	30	.634	6		Kansas City	7	5	.583	1/2	
x-Atlanta	44	38	.537	14		Chicago	7	5	.583	1	
Charlotte	34	48	.415	24		Detroit	5	7	.417	3	
Washington	23	59	.280	35		Minnesota	4	7	.364	3 1/2	
Central Division						West Division					
z-Chicago	62	20	.756	—		Texas	9	3	.750	—	
x-Indiana	37	45	.451	25		Los Angeles	7	5	.583	2	
Milwaukee	35	47	.427	27		Oakland	6	6	.500	3	
Detroit	30	52	.366	32		Seattle	4	8	.333	5	
Cleveland	19	63	.232	43							
WESTERN CONFERENCE						NATIONAL LEAGUE					
Southwest Division						East Division					
z-San Antonio	61	21	.744	—		Philadelphia	8	3	.727	—	
x-Dallas	57	25	.695	4		Florida	6	5	.545	2	
x-New Orleans	46	36	.561	15		Washington	5	6	.455	3	
x-Memphis	46	36	.561	15		Atlanta	5	7	.417	3 1/2	
Houston	43	39	.524	18		New York	4	7	.364	4	
Northwest Division						Central Division					
y-Oklahoma City	55	27	.671	—		Cincinnati	8	4	.667	—	
x-Denver	50	32	.610	5		Milwaukee	6	5	.545	1 1/2	
x-Portland	48	34	.585	7		Chicago	6	6	.500	2	
Utah	39	43	.476	16		Pittsburgh	5	6	.455	2 1/2	
Minnesota	17	65	.207	38		St. Louis	5	7	.417	3	
						Houston	3	9	.250	5	
Pacific Division						West Division					
y-L.A. Lakers	57	25	.695	—		Colorado	8	2	.800	—	
Phoenix	40	42	.488	17		Los Angeles	6	6	.500	3	
Golden State	36	46	.439	21		San Francisco	6	6	.500	3	
L.A. Clippers	32	50	.390	25		Arizona	5	6	.455	3 1/2	
Sacramento	24	58	.293	33		San Diego	5	6	.455	3 1/2	
x-clinched playoff spot						Yesterday's Games					
y-clinched division						San Diego 3, Cincinnati 2					
z-clinched conference						Milwaukee 6, Pittsburgh 0					
Yesterday's Games						Philadelphia 3, Washington 2					
Utah 107, Denver 103						Colorado 5, N.Y. Mets 4					
Chicago 97, New Jersey 92						Florida 5, Atlanta 1					
Dallas 121, New Orleans 89						Chicago Cubs 9, Houston 5					
Houston 121, Minnesota 102						St. Louis 15, Arizona 5					
Milwaukee 110, Oklahoma City 106, OT						San Francisco 4, L.A. Dodgers 3					
Boston 112, New York 102						Detroit 3, Texas 2					
Charlotte 96, Atlanta 85						Kansas City 10, Minnesota 5					
Cleveland 100, Washington 93						Oakland 7, Chicago White Sox 4, 10 innings					
Orlando 92, Indiana 74						Toronto 8, Seattle 3					
Detroit 104, Philadelphia 100						N.Y. Yankees 7, Baltimore 4					
Miami 97, Toronto 79						L.A. Angels 4, Cleveland 3, 12 innings					
Golden State 110, Portland 86						Tampa Bay at Boston, ppd., rain					
L.A. Clippers 110, Memphis 103											
Phoenix 106, San Antonio 103											
L.A. Lakers 116, Sacramento 108, OT											

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fil-Taga donates to Japan Relief



American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, fourth from left, receives a \$500 check donation from Fil-Taga Golfers Association president Ted Malaran, fifth from left. Attending the donation turnover ceremony were Fil-Taga members and American Red Cross NMI Chapter emergency service director Juan Diego Tenorio, third from right.

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Fil-Taga Golfers Association turned over its \$500 donation to the American Red Cross Japan Relief Thursday.

The turnover ceremony was held at the Aqua Resort Club with American Red Cross NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh and emergency service director Juan Diego Tenorio receiving the donation from Fil-Taga president Ted Ma-

laran. Also present at the ceremony were Fil-Taga officials Larry Pascual, Rene Batallones, Mike Cruz, and Ernie Lopez.

"We would like to thank Fil-Taga and its members for this donation. We are really happy with the outpouring support we are getting not only from the business sector, but also from the sports community, such as our golfers," Hirsh said.

"Despite these trying times, we are happy that the CNMI community is willing to help our brothers and sisters in Japan who are affected by the tsunami and earthquakes," he added.

Hirsh explained that donations they received are forwarded to Washington, D.C. twice a week and the American Red Cross directly turns them over to the Japan Red Cross. He added so far the NMI Chapter has donated about \$45,000.

The Fil-Taga donation came from entrance fees the group collected from its monthly tournaments.

"Fil-Taga is not only about playing golf, the club is also after supporting a good cause," Malaran said.

Meanwhile, Malaran is reminding members of the April Ace tournament

this Sunday at the Marianas Country Club. Check-in time is at 11:30am, while tee off is at 12:30pm.

Winner of the April Ace will gain entry to the club championship and join early qualifiers Adony Matutino and Richard Meimban (January Ace), Freddie Cataluna and Richard Atalig (February), and Leo Ganacias and John Matsumoto (March).

For more information about Fil-Taga, contact Cruz at 483-7171, Malaran at 287-1227, Batallones at 898-3367, or Pascual at 287-1233.

Little League general meeting today



Saipan Little League Baseball Association will hold its general membership meeting today at 6pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Acting SLLBA president Claudia Leon-Guerrero said topics to be discussed include team entrance fees, team documents, league financial report, and other miscellaneous matters. All active members are encouraged to attend.

In related news, the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield has been undergoing renovation since Feb. 14 and completion of the repairs is expected on April 29.

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs-Division of Sports and Recreation has an active 75-day contract to revamp the dugout side fences, not including the back fence. The dugout fence was already installed and games resumed as scheduled.

Majors division makeup games have been rescheduled at Tan Ge Field with one match starting at 4pm weekly on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays until no longer necessary. *(Walter Cepeda-Sutherland)*

UBA preseason league draws 5 teams

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Five teams have already signified their intentions in joining the 2011 UBA Preseason Men's League that will open shop next month.

The list includes reigning UBA men's league champion Mobil, Hoopaholics, Rollers, Konflikt, and Ol'Aces. Only the first 12 teams to meet the league requirements will be allowed to join the competition.

United Basketball Association president James Lee said the league aims to keep participating teams active and prepare them for the third season in January next year and train officials. He added that as a treat to basketball fans, the league will be "court hopping" or play in various courts on Saipan.

Games will be played only every Saturday with the first match set for 4:30pm, the second at 6pm, and the third at 8:30pm. Each match will be



The Hoopaholics' Kelvin Fitial, center, is clobbered by two IT&E Fundamentalists defenders in mid-air during the UBA caging played early this year at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. UBA will hold a preseason league in outdoor courts on Saipan next month.

SBA April roll-offs this weekend



The Saipan Bowling Association will have its April roll-offs this weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The SBA Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes's Saturday roll-off will begin at 6pm, while Sunday's contest will start at 3pm. Participants

can bowl on both days, but only the higher score will be counted. Entry fee is \$15 and cash prizes will depend on the number of participants.

The Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes will only be played on Sunday and entrance fee is only \$10.

For registration or more information, contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email at zapanta@pticom.com **(PR)**

Manibusan takes SGA April Ace



Former Superior Court president judge Edward Manibusan tamed the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort to win the Saipan Golfers Association April Ace of the Month last Sunday.

Manibusan shot a net 69 to prevail against 19 other SGA members and gain the monthly plum. The April Ace winner, who now qualifies to the club championship, also had the longest drive on the par-5, 510-yard hole No. 2 and closest to the pin shot on the par-3, 168-yard hole No. 3 and par-3, 160-yard No. 7.

Manibusan was the lone SGA member to card a net score in the 60s in the weekend tournament, as runner-up Joe Demapan only mustered a net 70, and third placer Nick Sablan logged a net 72.

Other SGA members who joined the April Ace tournament with their net scores in parenthesis were Tony Guerrero (73), Ray Salas (74), Ray San Nicolas (74), Steve Balakrishna (76), Rick Kautz (77), Mariano Fajardo (78), Larry Guerrero (80), Jim Mitchell (80), Norbert Sablan (82), Larry Hocog (82), Frances Sablan (83), Edward Sablan (86), Martin Sablan (87), and Das Krishnan (91).

Hocog won the other longest drive contest on the par-4,



Manibusan

289-yard hole No. 12, while Nick Sablan and Joe Demapan topped the closest to the pin competition on the par-3, 158-yard hole No. 13 and par 3-, 180-yard No. 17, respectively. *(Roselyn B. Monroyo)*

**Bonds guilty
of obstruction
of justice**

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Fil-Taga donates to Japan Relief

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mieko braces for busy summer schedule

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After a full calendar last month, at least four more tournaments await Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey this summer.

Carey, who won 2011 XTERRA Guam last month and finished fifth and second in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship and 2011 Tagaman Triathlon, respectively, will be competing in an MTB race in Japan and in the Kansas Ironman in June. In July, she will be back in Japan for another MTB race series and in August, she will defend her XTERRA Japan title.

"So far this is my plan and I would love to join many local races and organize them to keep everyone's motivation up," the 32-year-old triathlete said.

Carey added the first MTB race in Japan on June 5 will give her an opportunity to challenge pro riders and improve her biking skills in time for XTERRA Japan.

Then a week after the race in Japan, Carey will be in Kansas for the 1.2-mile swim, a 56-mile bike, and a 13.1-mile run at Lawrence. It will be Carey's second stint in the Kansas Ironman after timing in at 5:31:16.97 and placing sixth in her age group (30-34 years old) and 21st woman overall in the 2008 edition of the annual event.

Carey's second MTB race in Japan is set for July 31, but before that, she is hoping to represent the CNMI in the 2011 Kaike Triathlon.

"Hopefully, Taga, Inc. will get an invite for Kaike. That's another big challenge for me.

See MIEKO on Page 38

► Mieko Carey, seen here nearing the finish line of a fundraising MTB race last Sunday, will have a busy schedule this summer.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tsunami Saipan targets 15 records

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan has set a modest goal in this weekend's All Island Invitational 3, as it aims to break 15 records at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

"I believe we will be able to mark more than 10 CNMI age group records again at this meet and our highest target is 15 records," Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura said.

So far, Tsunami swimmers hold all 11 records in the boys U8 age group with the up-and-coming Lukas Kang owning the most with six. Ryuto Yanai has two, his brother, Hiroto, Kensuke Kimura, and Ryosei Toda hold one each.

In the boys 9 to 10 age group, Tsunami Saipan has 12 of the 14 marks with Kaito Yanai having 10 and Kensuke Kimura owning two. Angel Marie Tan has three records in the girls 9 to 10 age group and one in the 11 to 12 category where Kensuke Kimura holds five and Kaito Yanai has one.

In the boys 13 to 14, Tsunami is 12-for-17 with Kensuke Kimura having seven and Kai Staal logging five. Staal also owns five records in the 15 to 16 age group and one in the open division.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers are among the more than 50 participants in the All Island Invitational that will start this afternoon at 4pm. Joining the host are Saipan Swim Club

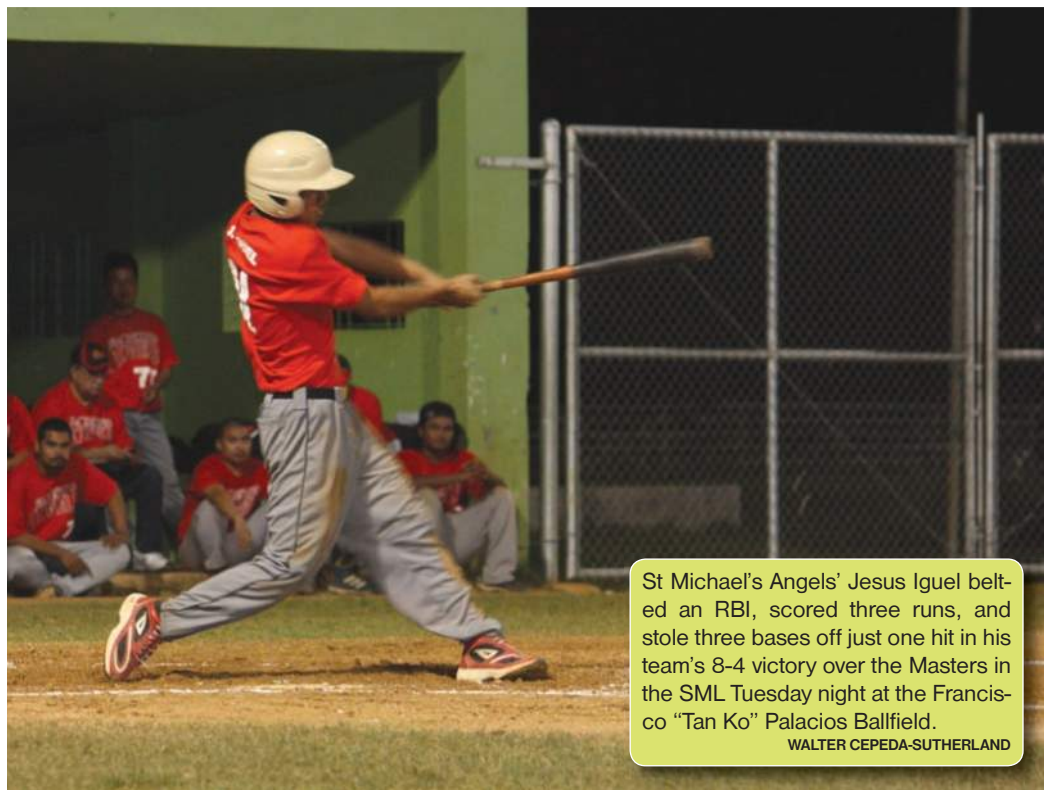
See TSUNAMI on Page 38



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Tsunami Saipan swimmer competes in the 100m freestyle race in a local meet in February at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Tsunami Saipan will host the All Island Invitational 3 this weekend at the Marpi pool.

Angels, D-9ers still in front of SML standings



St Michael's Angels' Jesus Iguel belted an RBI, scored three runs, and stole three bases off just one hit in his team's 8-4 victory over the Masters in the SML Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The St. Michaels' Angels bested the Masters, 8-4, in last Tuesday's Saipan Major League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, while the D-9ers held off a late push by the Ol'Aces, 6-4, last Thursday.

The Angels now sit a game ahead of D-9ers (4-1) with their fifth win in six games.

The Masters, on the other hand, have been fighting from behind and dropped four in a row after winning their season opener even as the Ol'Aces have fallen to a 2-3 win-loss record.

Angels 8, Masters 4

The Angels shot out of the gate

See ANGELS on Page 38

No more unbeaten team in men's league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Division B of the 2011 N M I F A Men's Invitational Football League now has no undefeated team, following the results of last week's games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Matansa Football Club was the latest squad to lose its unbeaten record after falling to Tan Holdings FC on April 7. With the win and pending last Tuesday's results, Tan Holdings forced a three-way tie for the lead with Matansa and SKY FC. The three teams hold identical 3-0-1 win-draw-loss records in the six-team field.

Tan Holdings 1, Matansa 0

Tan Holdings notched its third

victory after a 1-0 triumph over Matansa.

Delbert Greenman scored the lone goal in the game after getting a feed from Jerishwin Angeles at midcourt.

Tan Holdings will go for win No. 4 this Sunday when it faces SKY FC at 12pm.

Matansa 3, MP United Blue 0

Before its loss to Tan Holdings, Matansa went 3-for-3 after a 3-0 victory over MP United on April 3.

MP United, which won its first two games, absorbed its first defeat after allowing Hong Tao Zhao, Tej Gurung, and Dhiraj Chetri to score for Matansa.

SKY FC 4, MP United Blue 0

SKY FC grabbed a share of the

See NO MORE on Page 38